

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 433.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1854.

[PRICE 6d.]



TEMPERANCE LINE OF

PACKETS from LONDON to AUSTRALIA, calling at Plymouth.—For PORT PHILLIP and SYDNEY, calling off Adelaide with passengers and their luggage only, the beautiful new clipper ship DAYLESFORD, A 1,680 tons register, ROULLE CARY, Commander, to sail March 1, lying in the East India Docks. She offers unusual advantages to passengers, having upwards of 7 feet height between decks, and great width of beam. The ventilation will be made most perfect, as, in addition to the ordinary appliances, she will be fitted with the ventilating apparatus recommended by Mrs. Chisholm. Baths and wash-houses will be erected on deck, and a library of 300 volumes will be supplied for the use of the passengers. A minister and an experienced surgeon will accompany the vessel. Passage-money for single persons and families 20 guineas. A few open berths for single men, at 18 guineas. For freight or passage apply to Griffiths, Newcombe, and Co., 27, Rood-lane, Fenchurch-street, London.

WANTED, by a highly respectable Youth, a Situation as ASSISTANT in the Grocery business in a Christian family.—Apply X. M., Post-office, Woburn.

WANTED by a Lady, 34 years of age, a Situation as HOUSEKEEPER, in a house of business, or in a private family. The highest testimonials as to integrity and ability can be given.—Address by letter, to A. B., 11, King's-place, King's-road, Chelsea.

WANTED, a Situation as NEEDLE-WOMAN in a Gentleman's Family, or to take the charge of young children to instruct in the first rudiments of Education, or would have no objection to fill a vacancy in a shop.—Address, S. B. Printing-office, Clare, Suffolk.

WANTED immediately, in a general Drapery Establishment in a large Provincial City, an experienced FEMALE, to take the entire management of the Mantle Department.—Address A. B., care of Messrs. Kerr and Scott, 9, Paternoster-row, London.

TO BOOKSELLERS' ASSISTANTS.

WANTED, at Midsummer next, an industrious and steady Young Man, as ASSISTANT to a Country Printer and Bookseller. He must thoroughly understand his business, and be able to take the entire management in the absence of the principal.—For further particulars, apply to Mr. J. W. Monk, Faversham, Kent.

TODRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.—WANTED a well-educated, obliging, and active YOUNG MAN for the Silk Department.—Apply, stating age, salary, and references, to H. and R. Kemp, Market-place, Leicester.

TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

WANTED a gentle well-educated Youth, as an APPRENTICE in a first-rate Drapery Establishment.—Address, T. M. Whittaker, 2 and 3, Spencer-place, Blackheath.

TO TEA DEALERS, GROCERS, and

PROVISION MERCHANTS.—**WANTED**, by a middle-aged Man, a Situation as CLERK in a wholesale house, or Salesman, or as Manager of a Branch Concern.—Apply, R. S., Post-office, Halifax.

TO SERVANTS.—WANTED, in a small

family where there are no children, a thorough SERVANT OF ALL WORK, who can be well recommended (from 25 to 35 years of age); she must understand plain cooking. Shoes and knives cleaned by a boy. The principal part of the washing put out.—Apply for address to A. B. Mrs. Cannon, 4, Whitechapel-road.

GENTLEMEN engaged during the Day,

seeking retired and comfortable Apartments, with Partial Board, if required, may obtain the same at a moderate charge, by applying to W. C., No. 8, Princes-road, Bermondsey.

A PLEASANTLY SITUATED FUR-

NISHED BED-ROOM, with use of Sitting Room if required, to be let, No. 3, Brunswick-terrace, Park-road, Old Kent-road. Terms moderate.

TO BE LET, for One year, from 25th

March next, to a small family, without young children, an Eight-roomed HOUSE, handsomely and Comfortably furnished, in Canonbury-park, Islington.

For cards to view, with particulars, apply at Mr. Stickland's, 22, Gracechurch-street, City; Mr. Gladding's, 20, City-road, Finsbury; or Mr. Cropp's, 7, Barnsbury-place, Islington High-street.

CHRISTIAN YOUNG MEN are informed

that a Society now exists for the purpose of assisting them to purchase House Property in Town or Country, either for occupation or investment.—Apply to R. G. PEACOCK, County Fire Office, 17, Churton-street, Pimlico.

COALS, Best, 36s., Second, 34s.—R. S.

DIXON and SON having Colliers which lower their masts and deliver alongside their Wharf, they SUPPLY the BEST COALS direct from the Ship.—Providence Wharf, Belvidere-road, Lambeth.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEECAPS, &c.

The material of which these are made is recommended by the Faculty as being peculiarly elastic and compressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and permanent support in all cases of WEAKNESS, and swelling of the LEGS, VARICOSE VEINS, SPRAINS, &c. It is porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. each. Postage 6d.

Manufactory, 228, Piccadilly, London,

MILL-HILL-SCHOOL, Hendon,

Middlesex.

Head Master, Rev. PHILIP SMITH, B.A.

Applications for the admission of pupils, and for preliminary information, may be made to the Head Master, or to the Secretary.

By order of the Committee,

ALGERNON WELLS, Secretary.

Old Jewry-chambers.

ESTABLISHED 1726.

CHAPLIN and LAMBERT, TALLOW

MELTERS, CANDLE MANUFACTURERS, OIL and ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN, 89 and 90, LEATHER-LANE, HOLBORN, beg to suggest to their numerous friends and others, who are about to lay in their Winter's stock, that every article supplied at their Establishment is of first-rate quality, and charged at the lowest remunerative price.

A List of Articles, with prices annexed, sent post free on application.

Orders with remittances promptly executed, and delivered at any of the Metropolitan Railway Stations.

C. and L. particularly recommend their TOWN TALLOW-MADE CANDLES.

Price's and Palmer's Composite and Metallic Candles at manufacturer's prices.

Purchasers of C. and L.'s celebrated Stamped Soaps will have the full amount of benefit accruing from the repeal of the duty.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH.

Conducted by Mr. R. F. Weymouth, M.A. (London), M.R.A.S., &c., &c.

THE higher Mathematical Classes receive

the benefit of the superintendence and lectures of the

REV. PROFESSOR NEWTH, M.A.,

Fellow of University College, London, author of "Elements of Statics," &c.

The course of studies pursued is suitable, as preparatory either for a college course, or for professional or commercial life.

The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing.

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

THE distinctive features of this Association

are—That all Education should be religious, but, at the same time, so free from Sectarian influence as to secure the sympathy and co-operation of all denominations of Evangelical Christians; and that the State, being incompetent to give such an Education to the people, should not interfere in the matter, but leave it entirely to Voluntary effort.

THE COMMITTEE having obtained ELIGIBLE APPOINTMENTS for those Pupils who have recently completed their course of study, have now a few VACANCIES in their Normal School for YOUNG MEN desirous of qualifying themselves for SCHOOLMASTERS.

The term of instruction is Twelve months; and the Course comprises, in addition to the usual routine of a sound English Education, Latin, Natural Philosophy, Biblical Studies, Singing, Drawing, and School Practice.

DOUGLAS ALLPORT, Secretary.

7, Walworth-place, Walworth.

NATIONAL FREEHOLD-LAND

SOCIETY.

14, Moorgate-street, London.

REPORT OF VALID SHARES DRAWN DURING THE WEEK.

50,720, 28,483, 21,521, 73,969, 42,176, 69,553, 41,780, 30,501, 32,909, 64,409, 27,313, 61,534, 39,774, 58,868, 30,130, 4,420, 48,343, 13,163, 68,478, 45,942, 70,262, 25,580, 58,341, 26,220, 15,102, 20,485, 26,277, 38,350, 6,023, 67,580* to 67,584* 55,790, 61,708, 22,341, 44,653, 7,091, 64,732, 67,541, 64,606, 34,326* to 34,329* 38,041, 19,401, 60,895, 47,684, 58,285, 951, 62,917, 71,545, 25,689, 43,655, 53,589, 2,489, 54,850, 8,697, 71,454, 66,046, 28,517.

* Grouped.

The shares numbered, 46,068, 69,230, 51,394, 36,616, 57,229; 32,801, 37,378, 3,195, 46,634, 33,177, 44,452, were also drawn, but as the subscriptions thereon were in arrear, the holders thereof have lost the benefit of this drawing. Copies of the Prospectus, Rules, and last Annual Report, may be obtained at the office, or by post, gratis.

Feb. 3, 1854. W. E. WHITTINGHAM, Secretary.

DEACON'S COFFEE AND DINING

HOUSE, 3, WALBROOK-CITY, opposite the Church-door.

Established 1812. Hot Joins from 12 to 5. Chops, Steaks, Fish, &c. Wines, Spirits, &c. Breakfast ready at 8. Cup of Coffee or Tea, 3d. Provincial papers from every county filed; also, the *Nonconformist*, *Banner*, *Watchman*, *Wesleyan Times*, *London Gazette*, *Mining and Railway Papers*, *Times*, *Australian*, *American*, *Ceylon*, *Cape*, *West India*, &c.; for which, and all other papers, Advertisements are received, at the office, Bond-court Walbrook, by Samuel Deacon.

EDINBURGH,

ALBION TEMPERANCE HOTEL,

(PHILIP'S), 28, JAMES-SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

Immediately behind the Registrar Office.

The ALBION is a large, elegantly-furnished, first-class Hotel; situation central, quiet, and airy. Only three minutes' walk from the Railway Termini.

TARIFF OF CHARGES.—Bed, 1s. 6d.; Breakfast, 1s. 6d.; Dinner, 2s.; Tea, 1s. 3d.; Servants, 1s. per day.

FIVE GUINEAS.—Mr. WM. H. HALSE,

the Medical Galvanist, of 22, BRUNSWICK-SQUARE, LONDON, informs his friends that his FIVE GUINEA APPARATUS are now ready.

Send two postage-stamps for his Pamphlet on Medical Galvanism.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM GEORGE

POCOCK.—On Tuesday, the 2nd instant, a meeting of the friends of the late Mr. W. G. Pocock, was held at the British School Rooms, Kingsland, for the purpose of opening a subscription for a sum of money to be presented to his widow in testimony of the respect and esteem felt for her late husband, whose unwearied efforts to promote the comfort and elevation of the working classes and in the cause of Civil and Religious Liberty had deservedly gained him a high place in the affections of all who knew him.

It was proposed and resolved unanimously that the sum of £200 be raised to complete the purchase of two houses partly paid for by Mr. Pocock, through the medium of a Building Society, realising thereby an income of £40 per annum. That mode of applying the money being deemed very appropriate, inasmuch as one of the chief objects of his useful life had been the formation of such societies, in the successful working of which he was engaged up to the time of his death.

The following sums have been promised in support of the effort contemplated by the resolution.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Working Men's Building Society .. 10 10 0	Mr. Rainbow .. 1 1 0
G.W. Alexander, Esq. 10 0 0	James Bishop .. 1 1 0
Acton Since Ayrton, Esq. .. 5 5 0	J. Rogers .. 1 1 0
S. Morley, Esq. .. 5 0 0	H. Rogers .. 1 1 0
Henry Vincent, Esq. 5 0 0	R. Whincop .. 1 1 0
A Friend .. 5 0 0	C. Gilpin .. 1 1 0
Joseph Cooper, Esq. 5 0 0	E. Lowther .. 1 1 0
F. Homan, Esq. .. 5 0 0	Knight .. 1 1 0
Mr. R. Smith .. 3 3 0	Dennant .. 1 1 0
I. F. Mollett .. 3 3 0	W. Allam .. 1 1 0
Hearn .. 3 0 0	G. H. Law .. 1 1 0
J. K. Dow .. 2 2 0	J. Anderson .. 1 1 0
Bateman .. 2 2 0	A. Teetgen .. 1 1 0
W. Edwards, Esq. .. 2 2 0	A. Cockshaw .. 1 1 0
Mr. B. Dixon .. 2 2 0	T. R. Monteith .. 1 1 0
F. Baron .. 2 2 0	W. M. Gurney .. 1 1 0
E. Miall, Esq., M.P. .. 2 2 0	Rev. John Jefferson .. 1 0 0
Mr. Samuel Prior .. 2 2 0	Homan, jun., Esq. 1 0 0
Symonds .. 2 2 0	Mr. J. Cook, jun. .. 1 0 0
J. Hazel .. 2 2 0	Elt .. 1 0 0
Engisch .. 2 2 0	Mrs. Elt .. 1 0 0
W. Lovett .. 2 0 0	Mr. G. Whincop .. 1 0 0
Statham .. 1 10 0	Stafford Allen, Esq. .. 1 0 0
Frederick Clarke, Esq. 1 1 0	Mr. Wright .. 1 0 0
Mr. Tyndall .. 1 1 0	C. Wright .. 1 0 0
Atkinson .. 1 1 0	Proudman .. 0 10 6
Wickham .. 1 1 0	Cranston .. 0 10 6
A. Friend .. 1 1 0	P. Young .. 0 10 6
Mr. Thomas .. 1 1 0	Cross, Esq. .. 0 10 6
R. Mollett .. 1 1 0	Mr. Raynham .. 0 10 0
J. Coulson .. 1 1 0	Watson .. 0 10 0
Lamang .. 1 1 0	J. Carter .. 0 10 0
	C. J. Williams, Esq. .. 0 10 0
	Mr. W. Freeman .. 0 10 0

Subscriptions received by S. PRIOR, No. 14, Dalston-terrace Kingsland.

NOW IN COURSE OF DELIVERY,

SIX LECTURES, by HENRY VINCENT,

Esq., on Cromwell and the English Commonwealth, in SOUTHGATE ROAD CHAPEL, DE BEAUVOIR TOWN, KINGSLAND, Tuesday and Thursday Evenings. Chair taken at 8 o'clock. Admission Tickets, 6d. each, to be obtained at the door of the Chapel on the Evenings of Lectures.

FOR 7s. 6d., 200 STEEL ENGRAVINGS

from the ANNUALS; suitable for Scrap-Books.

JAMES REYNOLDS, Publisher, 174, Strand.

COCOA-NUT FIBRE MATTING and

MATS of the best quality. The Jury of Class 28, Great Exhibition, awarded the Prize Medal to T. TRELOAR, Cocoa-nut Fibre Manufacturer, 42, Ludgate-hill, London.

SCOTTISH and IRISH LINEN

WAREHOUSE, 261, Oxford-street, near North Audley-street. DAVID BIRRELL, Manufacturer of Table Linen. Every description of Household Linens, Blankets, &c., at moderate prices.

A TREATISE on PIGGOTT'S

GALVANIC BELT without acid, for the cure of GOUT, to be had on receipt of a Postage-stamp.—Mr. W. P. PIGGOTT, the Medical Galvanist, 523n, Oxford-street, Bloomsbury, London.

ARNOLD'S STAMPED GOLD CHAIN,

and FIRST CLASS WATCHES at the Wholesale Price from the Manufactory.

Ladies' Chains 3 Guineas. Gold Watches 6 Guineas. Gentlemen's Chains 1½ Guineas. Silver Watches 3 Guineas.

The Watches are extra jewelled, and warranted for one or three years, according to their value.

The great success of the plan of stamping all Gold Chains sold at this Manufactory (now in operation many months), and the consequent increase of business, has led to the discontinuance of the wholesale trade in favour of the public, and the extensive retail connexion of the house, all customers being served alike, at the manufacturing prices.

Office, Shop, and Hall EIGHT DAY DIALS, THREE GUINEAS. Ditto, to strike, Half a Guinea extra. Only best work. Goods sent into the country, and all orders delivered free.

BARCLAY and CO.'S STOUT, 3s. 6d. per

DOZEN QUARTS, by taking Six Dozen; a less quantity, 4s. per Dozen.

BASS and Co.'s PALE ALE, 6s. per Dozen Quarts, 3s. 6d. per Dozen Pints.

PALE or GOLD SHERRY, 26s., 28s., 30s., 36s., 42s.

OLD BOTTLED PORT, 36s., 42s., 48s.

DRAUGHT PORT, 26s., 28s., 30s.

CHAMPAGNE, 40s. and upwards.

CASH ONLY.

W. WHITTAKER, 24, CRUTCHED FRIARS, CITY.

SARL'S ARGENTINE SILVER PLATE

IS THE BEST SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLID SILVER.

MANUFACTORY, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House), LONDON.

THIS unrivalled production continues to give the same satisfaction as when first introduced by SARL and SONS, ten years ago. From its intrinsic value, and brilliant appearance, it far surpasses all other substitutes for solid silver. A new and magnificent stock has just been completed for the present season, to which public inspection is respectfully invited. It comprises SPOONS and FORKS, CORNER DISHES and COVERS, DISH COVERS, EPERGNES and CANDELABRAS with Beautiful Figures and Classical Designs, TEA and COFFEE EQUIPAGES, CRUST FRAMES, CAKE BASKETS, CANDLESTICKS, SALVERS, TEA TRAYS, DECANTER STANDS, LIQUEUR FRAMES, TEA URNS and KETTLES, SOUP and SAUCE TUREENS, with every article requisite for the Dinner, Tea, or Breakfast Service. Pamphlets, containing drawings and prices of all the articles, gratis, and sent postage free to all parts of the kingdom. Any article may be had separately as a sample.

SOLE INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS,

SARL & SONS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES.

SARL and SONS, WATCH MANUFACTURERS, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House), invite attention to their new and very extensive STOCK of GOLD and SILVER WATCHES. The patterns are of the latest style, and the movements of the most highly-finished description. Every make can be had. The following prices will convey an outline of the Stock, combining economy with quality:—

	Gold Cases and Dials.	Silver Cases.
Watches of the Horizontal make, jewelled in four holes, maintaining power, 1st size.....	5 10 0	2 18 0
Ditto, 2nd size.....	7 10 0	3 3 0
Ditto, 3rd size.....	8 10 0	3 10 0
Patent lever movements, detached escapements, jewelled in four or six holes, 2nd size.....	9 9 0	3 18 0
Ditto with the flat, fashionable style, with the most highly-finished movements, jewelled in ten extra holes, 3rd size.....	14 14 0	5 18 0

A written warranty for accurate performance is given with every watch, and a twelvemonths' trial allowed. A very extensive and splendid assortment of fine gold neck-chains; charged according to the weight of sovereigns.

A pamphlet, containing a list of the prices of the various articles in gold and silver, may be had gratis.—Address, 18, POULTRY (near the Mansion House, London.)

THE CONGREGATIONAL LECTURES.

JACKSON and WALFORD beg to state that the FIRST ISSUE of the CHEAP and UNIFORM EDITION of the above being OUT OF PRINT, they are unable to supply any more copies of that issue. SUBSCRIBERS who have not already purchased the SECOND ISSUE, are recommended to make early application for the same, as the works cannot possibly be reprinted at such a low price when this Edition is exhausted.

18, St. Paul's Churchyard, Feb. 7, 1854.

FUGITIVE SLAVES IN CANADA.

Rev. S. R. WARD has engagements to Lecture and Preach as follows, when opportunities will be given to those who wish to contribute to the Fund for the Relief of Destitute Refugees from American Slavery.

TRINITY CHAPEL, POPLAR, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.
CAMBERWELL GREEN CHAPEL, CAMBERWELL, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.
SURREY CHAPEL, Feb. 19, at 6½ p.m.
WESTMINSTER, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.
MIDDLETON ROAD CHAPEL, DALSTON, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.
BETHNAL GREEN CHAPEL, March 3, at 7 p.m.
HANOVER CHAPEL, PECKHAM, March 12, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
YORK STREET CHAPEL, WALWORTH ROAD, March 19, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

KING WILLIAM STREET ROOMS.

24 and 25, KING WILLIAM STREET, CHARING-CROSS.

ILLUSTRATED DIORAMIC LECTURES, DAILY, at 3 o'clock precisely.

1. VOICES FROM THE TOMBS OF EGYPT—Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
 2. NINEVEN (THE BURIED CITY OF THE EAST)—Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Admission, 1s. Reserved Front Seats, 2s. Children, half-price.

The Working Men's Lectures are otherwise announced.

BRITISH BANNER.

ACTION FOR LIBEL.—In a SUPPLEMENT to the "BRITISH BANNER" of THIS DAY, FEBRUARY 15, will be given a FULL REPORT of the TRIAL, "AINSLIE & PRATT," in the Court of Common Pleas, Westminster, before Mr. Justice Talfourd and a Special Jury, of an action for an ALLEGED LIBEL published in the *British Banner* of December 7, 1853.

* Five Penny-stamps sent to the Publisher of the "British Banner," 3, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, will secure a copy of the Paper and Supplement through the Post.

JOHN WHITE'S SPECIAL MARGUAX

CLARET, 36s. per dozen case; Burgundy, in prime condition, 48s. per dozen.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

JOHN WHITE'S SPARKLING CHAMPAGNE, 42s. per dozen, or £6 for a 3-dozen case.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

JOHN WHITE'S DINNER-SHERRIES, from 20s.; Duff Gordon's Sherry, 36s.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

JOHN WHITE'S FINE OLD CRUSTED PORT, 36s. to 42s.; Unqualified, 48s. to 54s. Terms cash. All other wines of the best brands and choicest vintages, at equally moderate prices. If preferred, purchasers can be supplied at per gallon.—34, Dowgate-hill, Cannon-street.

DURLEY and Co., House Furnishers, beg

most respectfully to assert, that from their being *house and* manufacturers of Cabinet Furniture in every variety of style and wood, (from original designs by their own draughtsmen) may be obtained most advantageously from them. They only request that the style, quality, and price of their furniture may be ascertained and fairly compared with any other house in the trade. Brussels, Tapestry, and Velvet Frieze Carpets, in immense variety, at from 2s. 9d. per yard, as likewise every new and novel fabric for Curtains, coverings and Portières, &c. &c. &c.—66, and 67, Oxford-street, nearly opposite the Pantheon.

FUTVOYE'S PRESENTS for the SEA.

SON, comprising every description of English and Foreign Fancy Goods, Dressing and Writing Cases, Workboxes, Jewellery, Clocks, Watches, Bronzes, China, Glass, Alabaster, Papier Mache, and French Stationery, at Paris prices; Bibles, Prayer-books, and thousands of articles in bijouterie and vertu.—FUTVOYE and Co., 154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

FUTVOYE'S EIGHT-DAY ROUND

BRASS DIALS, 14s. 6d. each, warranted; also an immense variety of French Clocks under shades, from £2 2s. each, of the newest and most elegant designs.—FUTVOYE and Co., 154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street, and 34, Rue de Rivoli, Paris.

FUTVOYE'S £3 3s. LADIES' ROSE-

WOOD DRESSING-CASES, with Jewel Drawers and Solid Silver Top Bottles.—An immense variety of Writing and Dressing Cases, Despatch Boxes, Souffettes, Work-boxes, filled Reticles, and every description of Fancy Cabinet and Leather Goods.—154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

FUTVOYE'S £4 4s. GOLD WATCHES

four holes jewelled, horizontal escapement, warranted.—Silver Watches, £2 10s. Solid Gold Chains, of their own manufacture, sold at per ounce, and the fashion only charged. Every description of Jewellery taken in exchange, or purchased for cash.—154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

FUTVOYE'S PAPIER MACHE AR-

TICLES, in every variety, consisting of Pole and Hand-Screens, Chess, and Work Tables, Tea Trays and Caddies, Blotting and Cigar Cases, &c.—Mr. Futvoye being the Son of the original inventor of this work, is enabled to produce specimens far surpassing those of every other manufacturer. All descriptions of Japan work repaired, equal to new.—154, Regent-street, corner of Beak-street.

QUALITY the TEST of CHEAPNESS.

BERDOE'S LIGHT OVERCOATS and CAPES resist any amount of rain. One of the largest stocks in London, of Superior Garments at lowest charges. First class DRESS COATS, £3. BOY'S SUIT, 11d. per inch, according to height.—96, NEW BOND STREET, and 69, CORNHILL. (No where else.)

SIR WILLIAM BURNETT'S PATENTS.

IN the year 1838 Patents were granted to Sir William Burnett, M.D., F.R.S., Director-General of the Medical Department of the Royal Navy, for the use of Chloride of Zinc, as applied to the preservation of Timber, Canvass, Cordage, Cotton, Woolen, and other articles, from Rot, Mildew, Moth, &c.; and in 1852 her Majesty was pleased to grant an extension for seven years. Parties using Chloride of Zinc for any such purposes must purchase the same from the Proprietors of the Patents, at their Office, No. 18, Cannon-street, London-bridge; and any person using without license will be proceeded against for infringement of their Patents.

N.B.—The Prize Medal of 1851 was awarded by the Royal Commissioners for Sir William Burnett's Patent.

SIR WILLIAM BURNETT'S DISINFECTING FLUID.

THE great and invariable success of Sir William Burnett's Patent Solution, in Preserving Timber, &c., from Rot, and in arresting the Decomposition of Animal and Vegetable Matters, soon led to its general application as an Antiseptic or Disinfecting Agent; and, for the last eight years, it has been in general use, with a success and public benefit truly marvellous, for the Disinfection of Sick Rooms, Clothing, Linen, &c.; the Prevention of Contagion; the Purification of Bilge-water and Ships' Holds, Ceasepools, Drains, Water-closets, Stables, Dog-kennels, &c.

It is now only necessary to caution the public against an imitation which, for the last month or two, has been advertised as an "IMPROVED CHLORIDE OF ZINC," and even recommended by selections from Sir William Burnett's own Testimonials.

Sir William Burnett's Disinfecting Fluid is sold by all Chemists and Druggists, and at No. 18, Cannon-street, London-bridge.

THE BUDGET OF 1853.

IN strict conformity with the REDUCTION of the TEA DUTY, A. HIND has constructed his Scale of Prices, and invites public attention to the following quotations:—

Rich PEKOE LAP-SANG SOUCHONG, such as the E.I. Company used to bring over, 3s. 9d. per lb.

High-scented and Rich-flavoured Flowery ASSAM, reduced from 4s. 4d. to 4s. per lb.

Our CHOICE MIXTURE of the Best Black and Green Teas, comprising all the excellences of the richest and rarest productions of China and Assam judiciously blended, 4s. per lb.

OUCHAIN YOUNG HYSON, HYSON, and PEARL GUNPOWDER 5s. 8d., 5s., 4s. 4d., 4s., 3s. 8d., and 3s. 4d. per lb.

All these are of the prime quality and most delicious flavour. Lower qualities at proportionately reduced prices.

Choice MOCHA COFFEE, rich and mellow, of great strength, 1s. 4d. per lb.

Very excellent PLANTATION CEYLON, packed in Tin Canisters, fresh and warm from the Mill, 1s. per lb.

HIND'S GREAT CENTRAL TEA ESTABLISHMENT, corner of NORTH-STREET, KING'S-CROSS (the third turning from the Great Northern Terminus, City side).

Wholesale Depot for HIND'S CELEBRATED ONE SHILLING PARISHAN SAUCE.

* P. O. Orders to be made payable to ANDREW HIND, at the Office, King's-cross.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, EYE-

BROWS, &c.—The most surprising, efficacious, and elegant preparation ever introduced for the growth of Hair, Whiskers, &c., is ROSALIE COUPELLE'S CRINUTRIAL. Thousands who were once bald, have now splendid heads of natural hair; and a still greater number who were once utterly destitute of Beard or Whisker, have now these attributes of manhood in attractive luxuriance. Numerous similarly-named imitations have been, from time to time, put forth, accompanied by testimonials, each and all as spurious as the article they represent. Persons who have been thus deceived will find that the genuine article has no parallel in the growth, curling, and general improvement of the Hair, Whiskers, &c., as also checking greyness. For children it is indispensable, forming the basis of a beautiful head of hair.

In Pots and Bottles, 2s. each, with full directions, through all Druggists and Perfumers, or sent free on receipt of 24 postage stamps, by ROSALIE COUPELLE, British and Foreign Perfumery Establishment, 35, Ely-place, Holborn-hill, London.

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INSTITUTED 1831.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

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Manager—Robert Christie, Esq.

LONDON: 126, Bishopsgate-street, Cornhill.

GLASGOW: 103, St. Vincent-street.

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" 1,000, " 1836, " 1,407 18 7

" 1,000, " 1840, " 1,297 18 7

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December, 1853.

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Premium . . .	£ s. d. 1 18 3	£ s. d. 2 7 9	£ s. d. 3 3 2	£ s. d. 4 10 2	£ s. d. 6 18 5

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THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XVI.—NEW SERIES, No. 433.]

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

WHO IS THE DOG IN THE MANGER?

A SHORT time since our weekly contemporary, the *Spectator*, put forth an article, pretty obviously from a clerical hand, adverting to a rumoured intention of the Protestant Dissenters to oppose the forthcoming Ministerial measure for University reform, on the ground that it will leave wholly untouched the exclusive and sectarian character of those national institutions, and strongly deprecating such a course as impolitic and ill-natured. The writer professed his own anxiety that the Universities should be thrown open to Dissenters, and hinted that there was a respectable minority in those seats of learning who thought with him. He assumed, however, that no such advance upon the existing system could obtain, for the present, the sanction of Parliament, and he kindly counselled the Dissenters to forego their claim, and, by generously aiding the passage of the Bill, to retain and deepen the sympathies of their Church of England allies. A correspondent, whose letter appeared in the next week's *Spectator*, briefly but clearly pointed out that the principal obstacle to the realization of what the writer of the article considered a just demand, was the invariable siding, in all such matters, of liberal Churchmen, who admit the reasonableness of a claim, not with those who make it, but with those who refuse it. To this letter, the editor of the *Spectator* appended a short note, the purport of which was—If you Dissenters are strong enough to enforce your demand, do so—if not, why should you play "the dog in the manger," by opposing a reform which, although it overlooks your rights, will yet be advantageous to learning?

The time being at hand when the measure of her Majesty's Ministers will have to be laid before the country, and when it will be necessary for the Nonconformist members of the House of Commons to decide how they will treat it, we propose to examine this "dog in the manger" charge, that whatever course they may, upon reflection, think fit to take, they may not allow themselves to be scared into tame acquiescence by a phrase which, in its intended application to them, is no more than "sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Let us first of all look at the thing we are asked to do. The two Universities are National Institutions perverted to the exclusive advantage of a particular sect. The Census Report on Religious Worship demonstrates that, whilst the so-styled Church of England is by far the largest sect of Protestant religionists in this country, compared with any other single denomination, it nevertheless comprehends within its pale not more than one-half of the habitual worshippers in the kingdom, and scarcely one-third of the entire population. The several Colleges clustered round the two Universities, and richly endowed for the encouragement of learning by men whose will the nation has long since set aside, are at present closed against two-thirds of the population, and at Oxford nearly five millions of Dissenters are debarred matriculation,

while at Cambridge they are prevented from taking a degree. Thus, in one instance, we are denied education, in another we are refused any certificate of proficiency; and in both we are shut out from those stimulants to high culture which College Fellowships were designed to minister. The result is, that some five millions of us are placed at incalculable disadvantage in regard to high literary eminence, in comparison with a like number of Churchmen—an inferiority, the serious inconveniences of which meet us at every turn of life—a deprivation constantly operating upon the minds of our aspiring youth to drive them forth from our ranks—a badge of degradation which positively shuts us out from some of the higher professions. We are not simply asked to lend a hand in perpetuating our own exclusion, but we are coolly expected to join Liberal Churchmen in aggravating the mischiefs of it.

To place the two Universities under better management—to subject them to less obsolete regulations—to secure a style of education in them wider in its range than that which is now in vogue, and more in harmony with the literary spirit of the age—is, doubtless, a good thing *per se*, and much to be desired. But just in proportion as a University education becomes more valuable than it is at present, and is, therefore, likely to be more highly thought of, and more generally prized, just in the same proportion will be the increase of injustice and injury inflicted on Dissenters. The interval between those educated at either of our national Universities and those who are churlishly excluded from them will become greater than ever. At present, the balance of disadvantage is not altogether one way—for if Dissenters are denied some of the best means of literary culture, they are free to adopt a better kind of it. Hence, whilst in scanning Latin or Greek verses, or in mastering the abstruser mysteries of mathematics, they are commonly behind University graduates, they as frequently take the precedence of them in knowledge of modern languages, and in familiarity with modern science. Their liberal Church friends now most modestly desire them to part with even this sorry compensation. "Give us the benefit," they say, "of whatever you enjoy and we do not. Don't exact any thing in return for it. We are already placed by law in an unjust superiority over you. Please help to place us higher without expecting us to remedy your wrong. At some future time, when you are strong enough to do without us, we will give you our heartiest assistance. It is not convenient for us to deny ourselves at the present moment, but we beg you to exhibit an increased measure of this virtue on our behalf. We confidently rely on your patriotism, and should be grieved and shocked to see you acting the part of 'dog in the manger.'"

We are really at a loss adequately to characterize the cool effrontery of this demand. We find it difficult to keep indignant feeling within bounds. Why, we ask, why are we to be for ever sacrificing ourselves to the superciliousness and intolerance of a sect not more numerous than the aggregate of others, and delude ourselves with the notion that "patriotism" consists in humouring the whim and ministering to the self-exaltation of five million Churchmen?

We are requested not to endanger the Ministerial measure, because we shall thereby postpone a great national benefit to our own selfish and sectarian interests. We do not so view the possible consequences of the contemplated policy. We do not believe that it is for the advantage of the nation that the present practice of deferring to intolerance and narrow-mindedness in high places should receive repeated Parliamentary sanction. Every time we purchase a good measure by yielding to episcopal assumptions—every time we blink sound and statesmanlike principles with a view to escape High Church opposition—every time we are cowardly enough, or impatient enough, to snatch at immediate success, by practically disavowing solemn professions—we entail upon the country heavy moral penalties, in the demoralization of public opinion. We have already done too much in this way. We have almost raised episcopal

bigotry into the rank of a national institution. It is time to commence a better and a nobler order of practice. Let us see to it, at any present sacrifice, that unreasonable and sectarian jealousy do not obtain a predominance of political power in the country—and, surely, if principles of justice are ever and anon to be put in abeyance by Government and the Legislature, because a small knot of dignified ecclesiastics would else obstruct all progress, the nation has come under the worst possible of all dominations. We know not that pure patriotism could do better than read a lesson of stern rebuke to mitred obstructiveness—and we hold, that for statesmen to retrace their recent humiliating steps of obsequious deference to sacerdotal arrogance and bigotry, would be a greater gain for England than to get a better university education to one-half the religious world.

Dissenters are threatened that, by obstructing the promised reform because their claims are not recognised, they will only repel the sympathies with which liberal Churchmen now regard them. But of what use, it may be asked in reply, are those sympathies to us, except to prevail upon us to sacrifice ourselves? What do these liberal Churchmen for us, when the exclusive pretensions of their own Church stand in the way? Twenty years ago this question of the admission of Dissenters to the national Universities was easily carried through the House of Commons, and, with ordinary perseverance and courage, would have long since been forced through the House of Lords. What have liberal Churchmen been about during the interval? Why, until very lately, spitting contempt on us, and sneering at our weakness. No! Let us not be deceived. We cannot trust anything to spontaneous ecclesiastical liberality, nor to enduring ecclesiastical gratitude. We have some power—let us use it in self-defence. The weak of nerves, and the pliant of will, are always despised. We must first respect ourselves, and then others will respect us. But we cannot respect ourselves and consent to become the tool of a Church clique for our own humiliation. The lion's whelp will be recklessly kicked until it has been seen that *he has claws, and will use them if need be.*

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON ECCLESIASTICAL MATTERS.

At a meeting of members of the House of Commons, held on the 8th instant, at Fendall's Hotel, Mr. Apsley Pellatt, and afterwards Mr. S. Morton Peto, in the chair; summoned by a circular, which stated that it was thought to be desirable by several members of the House that, as questions bearing on ecclesiastical matters would be brought forward this session, there should be opportunities for free discussion amongst themselves of such questions, in order to secure, as far as might be possible, unity of action on them, within the House, it was resolved, that a Parliamentary Committee be formed for the advancement of religious liberty, with especial reference to the rights of Protestant Dissenters; to consist of members of Parliament and of other gentlemen, and that the committee consist of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Thomas Barnes, M.P.; Mr. Frank Crossley, M.P.; Mr. George Hadfield, M.P.; Mr. Lawrence Heyworth, M.P.; Mr. Alderman Kershaw, M.P.; Mr. Edward Miall, M.P.; Mr. R. Milligan, M.P.; Mr. Apsley Pellatt, M.P.; Mr. S. Morton Peto, M.P.; Mr. James Bell, M.P.; Mr. R. Gardiner, M.P.; Mr. James Heywood, M.P.; Professor Foster, Mr. E. W. Field, Mr. Hull Terrell, as representing other bodies. With power to add to their number. The committee meet again this day and will no doubt be largely increased.

DISSENTERS AND THE UNIVERSITIES.—The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge has been petitioned "for an enlarged system of granting degrees in the University." The petitioners are six:—James Heywood, M.P., F.R.S., of Trinity, Senior Optime in 1833; Henry A. Bright, of Trinity; J. J. Stevenson, F.R.S., Second Wrangler in 1837, formerly of St. John's (who signs,

not from the motive of desiring a degree for himself, but from that of wishing to see the University of Cambridge become truly a University for the people of England as such; W. B. Colman, of Trinity, Thirteenth Wrangler in 1851; Arthur Cohen, of Magdalen; William Aldam, of Trinity, Fourth Wrangler in 1838, and subsequently M.P. for Leeds (who signs, not as being now prevented from taking a degree, having become a member of the Church of England, but that the University may be open to Dissenters in the matter of taking degrees). At present, Dissenters may enter Cambridge; receive their education there; associate with their fellow-students of the Church; and exercise all that moral influence which belongs to companionship. It is only when honours are to be conferred that the University takes alarm. At that stage of the business, it matters not that in academical standing, in qualification by residence, and by success in the various requisite examinations, a student is unexceptionable: if he will not subscribe a prescribed religious test, he is put aside—he may not graduate. Oxford, more consistent, meets the Dissenter on the threshold, and bars his entrance by her tests. Cambridge admits the heretic into the fold, but withholds the distinction which he has honourably won. Is it not worth the while of Churchmen to consider (looking beyond the question raised by the petitioners) whether our Universities are not altogether in error in their treatment of Dissenters.—*Gateshead Observer*.

ECCLIASTICAL INTOLERANCE IN SWEDEN.—By letters from Stockholm, we learn that the persecutions in Sweden of Protestants by Protestants still continue. Between three and four hundred persons are under sentence of imprisonment, on bread and water, for twenty-eight days, for exclusively religious causes. From some unaccountable reason, these sentences have not yet been executed; but we can only suppose that the delay is attributable to the apprehension of indignation throughout Europe, which the execution of such an atrocity would evoke. The subject of religious liberty has apparently taken strong hold on the public mind. The Minister of Public Worship, Mr. Reuter-dahl, has entered the arena of the press, inveighing against the religious movement, and throwing out insidious remarks as to foreign influence. His pamphlet has been answered by Dr. Thömaner, who speaks most decidedly against the Conventicle Act, and against either the imprisonment or banishment of any person for obeying his conscience in matters of religion, though he does not go so far as an Englishman would in his arguments.—*Christian Times*.

CHURCH RATE DEFEATED AT NEW SHOREHAM.—Some ten years ago, the larger portion of the most respectable inhabitants of this town retired from the parish church, in consequence of the introduction of extreme Puseyite practices and teaching by the Vicar. After appealing for redress to the Bishop of the diocese, in vain, they had no other alternative than that of providing for themselves a Free Church, in which they could worship God according to the Protestant doctrines and forms of the Church of England. Since the day of their secession, the granting of a Church-rate has been in their power, and they could have refused it at any time. They allowed it however to be annually voted, rather than assume an attitude of hostility to the church which they had left. The Vicar and his official staff ventured to call a vestry on the 9th inst., for the purpose of making a rate; when lo! it appeared that the sums raised by the last two rates had been entirely expended in matters quite foreign to the object for which they were granted. The Vicar having taken the chair, his churchwarden, with much confusion, produced the accounts. All kinds of jobs had been done and paid for, with the exception of one bill of upwards of four pounds, for work performed in the year 1852. "A rate or no rate" became the question. William Tate, Esq., moved, and Thomas Gates, Esq., seconded the motion, "that this vestry adjourn to this day six months." The Vicar, however, said that they were met to make a rate, and he declined to put the motion to the meeting. But no one of the Tractarian fraternity had sufficient courage to propose a rate, though called upon to do so. At length J. B. Bailey, Esq., a church-rate opponent, came to the rescue of the forlorn, and, in order to decide the question, proposed a rate of twopence in the pound. John Brown, Esq. moved an amendment that no rate be granted. The Vicar refused to put Mr. Brown's amendment to the meeting. He then submitted the question that a twopenny rate be granted, when less than ten hands were held up in its favour, and forty against it. A poll of the town was then suggested, but after the decision of the vestry, the pro-rate party had sufficient sagacity to perceive that it would only issue in a second defeat. Several of the gowmsmen of the so-called college came to the vestry in full canonicals, but instinctively perceiving that it was no go, not even a little one, they speedily retired. Thus ends the chapter of church-rates in the Borough Town of New Shoreham!—*From a Correspondent*.

THE TITHE WARFARE IN HOLBORN.—On Monday there was a sale of goods, including pots, pans, &c., seized from Mr. Z. Purday and others, at 24, Brook-street, Holborn, at the suit of the Rev. Geo. Mansfield, Incumbent of St. Peter's, Saffron-hill, and the Rev. Dr. Worthington, Incumbent of the Holy Trinity, Gray's-inn-lane, for tithes, which were refused to be paid, and the legality of which the parishioners at large do not recognise. The parishioners were invited attend the meeting by public hand-bills, and those who were present testified pretty freely their feelings on the subject by groans and hisses.

HOW TO ELECT A BURIAL BOARD.—The parochial authorities of Preston being obliged to provide a cemetery under an Order of Council, have made a snug provision for making things pleasant for the Church. The requisition for the convening of the vestry to put in force the Burial Act and to elect a board was, it ap-

pears, signed by the sexton, organ blower, and other church auxiliaries to the number of ten; and, no public notice being given, some twenty persons assembled and transacted the business to their own satisfaction, but not to that of the ratepayers generally. These last have forwarded a memorial to the Home Secretary, in which they represent that:—

"The meeting was convened by two of the churchwardens of the parish, instead of by the overseers, as has been customary in this township heretofore to convene the vestry. That the only intimation of the intended meeting was by notice upon the door of the parish church, instead of on the doors of all the churches and chapels of the township. That inasmuch as the parish church has lately been pulled down, and is now being rebuilt, no service takes place therein beyond that the services for baptism, marriages, and burials, and other offices are read in a small compartment within the tower. That in consequence the holding of the meeting was not known to more than a few persons, and the proceedings in consequence have caused much dissatisfaction in the township. Your memorialists, therefore, humbly submit that any resolution from such meeting should not be considered by your lordships as emanating from the 'Burial Board' of the township of Preston."

Religious and Educational Intelligence.

THE REV. GEORGE STEWARD, who recently resigned his ministerial charge in connexion with the Wesleyan body in Glasgow, and whose work on church government has excited considerable interest in religious circles, is now on a visit to Newcastle, supplying the Congregational Chapel, West Clayton-street.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. SAMUEL DUNN.—We regret to learn that this esteemed minister of the Congregational Church, assembling in Garden-street Chapel, resigned his pastorate on Thursday evening. Some months ago it was suggested that a new chapel in a better situation should be built, and Mr. Dunn offered to contribute towards it on a very liberal scale. It appeared, however, there were insuperable difficulties in the way of this measure, and seeing the improbability of success in Garden-street, Mr. Dunn has considered it his duty to resign. He will continue to supply the pulpit until the first Sabbath in March.—*Sheffield Independent*.

LECTURES TO THE WORKING CLASSES.—The above valuable course of lectures, which have now been continued for the past fourteen weeks, was brought to an appropriate conclusion on Tuesday night last, by several of the ministers who had taken part in them delivering short practical addresses on subjects intimately connected with the object for which the series had been established. The large hall of the Lyceum was crowded, and on the platform were most of the clergymen and several of the leading members of the different denominations in the town. The chair was occupied by Mr. John Hills, who, in a few brief but appropriate remarks, introduced the business of the evening, and stated that the amount received at the door for box seats during the course was £50 19s. 4d., and the expenditure in connexion therewith, £38 8s. 6d. A balance, exclusive of that evening's proceeds, was thus left of £12 10s. 10d., which, as at first intimated, would be given as a donation to the Infirmary. It was also in contemplation, he said, to print an address, which would be circulated over the length and breadth of the borough.—*Sunderland Herald*.

PEOPLES' EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE.—The second of the present course of lectures in connexion with this society, was delivered last evening by C. T. Jones, Esq., on "Locomotion," in the School-room, Chapel-place, Great Suffolk-street, Borough. E. Whimper, Esq., occupied the chair. The lecture was illustrated by diagrams, showing the different kinds of conveyance that have been in use in this country at successive periods—from the rude military chariots of the early Britons, to the modern stage coach, and the more rapid and commodious railway train. The lecture was warmly applauded. The concluding lectures of the course will be on "Nineveh," and will be delivered by S. R. Scott, Esq., on the next two Thursday evenings.

SANDWICH, KENT.—The Rev. Dr. Hillier has resigned his charge at Tonbridge, and has received a cordial and unanimous invitation to take the oversight of the Congregational Church, Sandwich, Kent, and will commence his stated labours the first Sabbath in March.

A NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL IN DEVONPORT.—The foundation-stone of a new Baptist Chapel, to be erected from an elegant design by A. Norman, Esq., in Fore-street, Devonport, was laid on Thursday last.

ALBANY CHAPEL, BRENTFORD.—A service in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Ebenezer Morley over the church and congregation assembling in the above place of worship, was held on Wednesday last. The Rev. Evan Davies, of Richmond, read a portion of Scripture and engaged in prayer; the Rev. J. W. Richardson, of Tottenham-court-road Chapel, delivered a lucid discourse "On the Nature of a Christian Church"; the Rev. Dr. Massie, of London, stated the views and feelings of those Christian friends who had originated the undertaking; the Rev. E. Morley, as the pastor elect, delivered a responsive declaration; the Rev. R. Ashton, Secretary to the Congregational Union of England and Wales, offered the recognition prayer; after which, the venerable Dr. Bennett had engaged to address united counsels to the pastor and church, but having been obliged, within a few hours of the service, to abandon the intention, in consequence of the state of his health, his lack of service was kindly undertaken and ably supplied by two of the officiating ministers, the Rev. D. Ashton and the Rev. Dr. Massie. The Rev. W. C. Yonge, of Brentford, offered the concluding prayer.

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL BUILDING SOCIETY.—The quarterly meeting of the committee of this society was held in Square Chapel, Halifax, on Wednesday morning and afternoon, February 1. A public meeting was held in the same place of worship in the evening. The chair was taken by John Crossley, Esq.. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Mellor, M.A., P. R. Willans, T. M. Newnes, J. C. Galloway, A.M.; R. Hopkins, Esq., of London, and A. Morley, Esq., of Nottingham. The amount of contributions promised in aid of the operations of the society, and spread over five years, exceeds £11,000. Applications for advice and pecuniary assistance in the erection of forty chapels in different parts of the country, exclusive of the metropolis and Lancashire, have been presented to the committee. Of these cases, thirty-seven appeared to the committee eligible to the assistance of the society. Specific conditional grants have been voted in aid of fourteen of the cases thus presented. In respect to the other cases, the decision of the committee is suspended till more definite conclusions be reached—in the localities themselves, in respect to the site, the plan, accommodation, and cost of the proposed buildings, the amount of local contribution, the provisions of the trust-deed, &c.

THE MILLION TESTAMENTS FOR CHINA.—It may be interesting to our readers to know what steps are being taken to accomplish this noble undertaking. The work is already in progress. The printing presses in China are busily employed. Letters have been recently received by the Bible Society from their corresponding committee, and plans are matured for printing 250,000 copies in China in eighteen months, dating from the 1st of January, 1854. The Bishop of Victoria guarantees to furnish from his stations 85,000; Dr. Medhurst, 115,000; Dr. Legge, 50,000. It is proposed that another quarter of a million should be printed in London in the same period, for which wooden blocks will be sent from China. Thus half a million will be ready in eighteen months, and if similar expedition be employed in the remaining portion of the work, the whole will be completed in three years—a much shorter time than had been anticipated. All English missionaries are working most heartily and lovingly in carrying out this gigantic scheme of Christian liberality. It will no doubt give great satisfaction to the public when they are informed, that the Committee of the Bible Society, at their sitting on Monday, passed a resolution for the printing of 50,000 copies of the entire Bible in Chinese at as early a period as practicable. The funds for the New Testaments have been readily supplied, nor can it be doubted that the Bible Society will receive prompt and generous aid to carry out this new feature of their plan for supplying China with a large instalment of the Word of God.—*British Banner*.

BETHEL CHAPEL, SUNDERLAND.—On Wednesday evening, February 1st, the Rev. Edward Bewlay, minister of the above chapel, was presented with a beautiful copy of Bagster's Hexapla in Turkey morocco binding, Scott's Commentary in six quarto volumes, bound in calf, and Blackie's illustrated edition of Barnes on the New Testament. They are the gift of the church and congregation, "as a New Year's offering, and also as an expression of their continued regard and affection for him, and of their earnest wishes for the success of his labours among them."

IRISH INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—A purse of one hundred and fifty sovereigns, and a silver tea-and-coffee service, were, on Monday, the 6th of February, presented to the Rev. Alfred Doudney, upon the completion of the printing of "Dr. Gill's Commentary on the Scriptures," at the Bonmahon Industrial Printing-school, county of Waterford.

FETTER-LANE CHAPEL.—In response to the cordial invitation of a special church meeting, the Rev. A. Buzacott, (son of the well-known missionary at Raratonga) has consented to preach at Fetter-lane Chapel during the remainder of the present year.

SUDBURY.—Services in connexion with the recognition of the Rev. J. Gill as pastor at the Old Meeting House in this town, took place last week. On Monday evening, the 6th inst., a preparatory devotional service was held, and a sermon preached by the Rev. W. S. Edwards, of London. On the 7th, a discourse was delivered by Rev. J. Stoughton, Kensington, on "Congregational Principles confirmed by Ecclesiastical History." Rev. S. Steel, of Hedingham, addressed the pastor, and other parts of the service were conducted by Rev. B. Johnson, J. Burgess, J. Reynolds, J. P. Palmer, J. H. Browne, J. F. Guenett, A. Anderson, Mr. S. Hayward, and J. Gill. In the evening 526 persons assembled to tea, and addresses were given by Revs. T. H. Browne, J. P. Palmer, A. Anderson, W. Bentley, B. Johnson, J. Rutter, H. Davies, Mr. Higgs, Mr. Manning Prentice, Revs. J. Jenkins and J. F. Guenett.

CHARLESWORTH.—The Rev. Charles Bateman, for many years minister over the Independent church, Abbots Roothing, Essex, and subsequently at Newland Chapel, Lincoln, has accepted a cordial invitation from the church and congregation at Charlesworth, Derbyshire, and purposes commencing his pastorate there on the 19th inst.

MANCHESTER.—On Wednesday evening last, the Rev. Joseph Spencer, late of Bakewell, Derbyshire, was recognised as pastor of the church assembling at Tipping-street Chapel, in this city. The Rev. Robert Halley, D.D., opened the service with reading and prayer; the Rev. John Lockwood, B.A., delivered the introductory discourse; the Rev. Thomas Atkin, of Glossop, asked the questions; the Rev. David Everard Ford offered the designation prayer; the Rev. John Clunie, LL.D., delivered the charge, and the Rev. James Griffin briefly addressed the people.

BATH.—On Sunday afternoon an address on American Slavery was delivered at Argyle Chapel to Sunday-school children, by the Rev. Edward Matthews, of Wisconsin, United States. About 1,000 children

from various schools in Bath were present, who evinced their interest in the cause of the slave by their orderly behaviour and strict attention during the address. At the commencement all united in singing "I was not born a little slave," &c. Prayer having been offered up by Mr. William Titley, Mr. Matthews delivered an address, showing that slavery deprives its victims of the blessings of the Gospel. He stated that of the six thousand ministers in the slave states, not more than twelve of them opposed slavery, the remainder justified it as a heaven-ordained institution. When Mr. Matthews was in Kentucky, he could learn of but one minister besides himself that preached against slavery.—*From a Correspondent.*

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, HURSTMONCEAUX, SUSSEX.—On Monday evening, the 6th inst., the Rev. James Roome Smith delivered a lecture on Nineveh, descriptive of the city, the sculptures discovered there by Dr. Layard, their shape and design; with the practical lessons deducible therefrom. Nearly three hundred persons listened with very close attention for one hour and a half to the lecturer; very many young persons being present. In rural districts ministers may afford much instruction to hundreds by the delivery of suitable lectures free.

Correspondence.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL CENSUS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me to add another reason to those urged by Mr. Davies, why Dissenters should possess themselves of the Census?

The abstracts which appear in newspapers and magazines can, of course, give only general results, but these statistical tables furnish detailed information respecting particular localities, which cannot fail to be interesting, and may also prove very serviceable to those who reside in them. A few lines of figures taken from one of these tables will in some cases serve as an effective weapon in local controversies, and in others as a stimulant in the prosecution of religious or philanthropic enterprises.

It is, however, due to the compiler and publisher of the authorised abridgment to say, that it contains a large quantity of matter, and many of the tables *in extenso*. Its wide circulation, therefore, is a subject for congratulation, and I am glad to learn that not only is it selling with rapidity here, but that many thousands have been, or will be, sent out to the colonies.

The Committee of the Society for the Liberation of Religion have in preparation two publications, by means of which they hope to bring out, and to widely circulate, all the facts contained in the Census illustrative of the inequitable character of our present ecclesiastical arrangements, as well as the potency of the hitherto despised voluntary principle. Mr. Mann has done his work well, but he has left a great deal of unwrought material which it is the special business of the volunteers to put into shape, and to employ with practical skill.

Yours truly,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS.

41, Ludgate-hill, Feb. 11.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Capitular Estates, Carlisle, for better distribution, 16.
Coal Duties, London, for relief from, 1.
Decimal Coinage, in favour of, 4.
Education (Scotland), for a new sectarian system, 4.
Fire Insurance Duty, for reduction, 2.
Reformatory Schools, in favour of, 12.
Medical Officers (Navy), for improvement, 10.
Romish Priests Endowment as Chaplains, against, 5.
Mercantile Law, for inquiry into, 3.
Ocean Penny Postage, in favour of, 6.
Wine Duties, for reduction of, 3.
Sale of Intoxicating Drinks on Sundays, to prohibit, 1.
Synodical Assemblies, in favour of, 1.
Turkey, in favour of independence, 1.
Sale of Intoxicating Drinks on Lord's Day, 1.
Medical Profession, for amendment of law, 2.
Crystal Palace, against opening on Sunday, 1.
Crystal Palace, in favour of opening on Sunday, 1.
Paper Duty, for repeal of, 1.
Law of Settlement, for amendment, 1.
Wages, for payment without stoppages, 3.

'BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Friendly Societies Bill.
Manchester and Salford Education Bill.
Settlement and Removal Bill.
Town Improvement (Ireland) Bill.
Improvement of Towns (Ireland) Bill.
Oath Bill.
Church Building Acts Amendment Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Assessed Taxes Act Amendment Bill.

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Assessed Taxes, &c.

DEBATES.

MR. HUDSON'S DEFENCE.

The House of Commons sat but a short time on Wednesday, when Mr. HUDSON took the opportunity of offering a vindication of his conduct, in reference to the charge of Mr. Duncombe of the preceding evening. He complained that Mr. Duncombe had given no notice of his intention to bring his name forward. "On my honour," he said, "I never made, or intended to make, any charge against any member of this House." It was utterly impossible for any gentleman to charge him with ever having said, directly or indirectly, that he ever tampered with a member of that House. "The charge is as false and malicious as it is unjust and untrue." Mr. Duncombe had talked of disgorging; but no tribunal would say that "what I am called upon to disgorge, I ever, to a large extent, received." Therefore, his position was one of misfortune—"I have been

morally right but legally wrong." Mr. Hudson, much affected, alluded to his transition from prosperity to adversity. He invited his accusers to "take me from my cradle and follow me to this day, and fix upon me, if they can, any charge of dishonourable conduct," and he would bid adieu to that House and his public position. Mr. Hudson reiterated his innocence; and gloried in the public works he had done—works projected "in the plenitude of his power," and condemned at the moment, but nearly every one of which he had lived to see carried out—"works which will bear comparison with that honourable member's [Mr. Duncombe's] conduct either in public or in private life." "If money had been my sole object, means were placed in my power of such a gigantic nature that I might have revelled in it to any amount." He repeated the invitation to appoint a committee to follow him from his cradle to the present day. "I am ready to meet inquiry." Here the subject dropped. No responsive cheers greeted the speaker.

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Thursday Mr. CAYLEY moved for a "Select Committee to consider the duties of the member leading the Government business in this House, and the expediency of attaching office and salary thereto." He had not communicated with Lord John Russell, for the House of Commons alone ought to decide this question. Mr. Cayley went into the circumstances of Lord John's joining Lord Aberdeen; accepting the Foreign Office; then resigning it, but remaining a member of the Cabinet, and adviser of her Majesty—he presumed, in his capacity as Privy Councillor; and taking his seat as leader of the House. He thought it very desirable that the position of the noble lord should be better defined. After highly eulogising the character of Lord John, he said he could appreciate the morbid sensibility of Lord John in not taking the pension he was entitled to; but he did not think the example was a good one.

Sir CHARLES WOOD opposed the motion. He trusted the House would not recognize the principle of attaching a salary to an office that did not exist, and the duties of which cannot be defined. It is clearly incompatible with the constitutional practice, that a salary should be given to any person except for the discharge of official duties.

Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS said it was not a proper time to create new places and add to the burdens of the people.

Mr. WALPOLE could not support the motion for a committee, but commented upon the unconstitutional position now occupied by Lord John Russell. He thought the organ of Government in that House should be the First Lord of the Treasury.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL did not rise to speak to anything that personally concerned him; but to ask the House to pause before it gave assent to the constitutional doctrines laid down by Mr. Walpole. He unduly restricted the responsibility of Ministers.

I hold that it is not really for the business the Minister transacts in performing the particular duties of his office, but it is for any advice which he has given, and which he may be proved, before a committee of this House, or at the bar of the House of Lords, to have given, that he is responsible, and for which he suffers the penalties that may ensue from impeachment. If this is the case, it is quite obvious that, whether a person holds an office totally unconnected with the business upon which he is consulted, or whether he holds no office whatever, the constitutional argument is exactly the same. Take a case that happened only the other day, and of which there is an account in the blue-books recently laid before the House. Lord Clarendon states, that on a particular occasion, it not being easy to collect the members of the Cabinet, there was a meeting at the Foreign Office, consisting of himself, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Home Secretary and Lord John Russell. He states that those four Ministers arrived at an opinion which they communicated to her Majesty. Now, supposing the advice which we then gave had been of a nature dangerous to the independence of this country, or that it had rendered us liable to the charge of being guilty of a high crime and misdemeanour, I conceive that every one of us—the First Lord of the Treasury, the Home Secretary, and myself—would have been equally responsible with the Foreign Secretary for tendering that advice.

He trusted that Mr. Cayley, having heard the opinion of the House, would not press his motion. Lord John said he quite agreed in the doctrine that "it is advisable that the organ of the Government in this House should, generally speaking, hold office."

Motion by leave withdrawn.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

In the House of Lords on Friday night, Lord FITZWILLIAM asked whether the Government were cognizant of Count Orloff's propositions, and, if they were, whether they would lay them before the House.

The Earl of CLARENDON replied as follows:—

It is notorious, as my noble friend has said, that Count Orloff has been sent upon a special mission from St. Petersburg to Vienna. I believe that he was not the bearer of that counter-project or answer to the terms of the Turkish Government to which I alluded the other night. Those terms, or counter-terms were sent by the Austrian chargé d'affaires from St. Petersburg to Vienna, in reply to the communication which he had been instructed to make to the Russian Government. I may as well mention in substance what the terms proposed by Russia were. The first was, that it was indispensable that a Turkish plenipotentiary should proceed either to St. Petersburg or to the head-quarters of the Russian army, in order to negotiate a peace; secondly, that if he went to St. Petersburg, the representatives of the Four Courts might have instructions to advise and concert with the Turkish plenipotentiary; but that the form of a conference was to be avoided; thirdly, that there was to be some separate or independent act or protocol, defining clearly former or recent firmans of the Sultan, confirming or constituting the privileges and immunities of the Greek church in the East. There was also an article to the effect, that the principalities should be evacuated as soon as practicable; and, fourthly, it was provided that an arrangement should be come to with respect to affording asylum to what were called "agitators and revolutionaries" from different parts of the world. A conference was summoned by Count Baol, at Vienna, to which that counter-

project was submitted. The terms were compared with those which had been previously approved by the conference and transmitted to St. Petersburg, and it was found that they were totally at variance with them. The conference, therefore, determined, and they recorded their determination in a protocol, that they were unacceptable to the Sultan, and should not be transmitted to Constantinople. (Hear, hear.) That is the answer to my noble friend's question with respect to the counter-project proposed by Russia. With respect to the other object of Count Orloff's mission, I beg to state that I have no official papers on the subject, and that I am not sufficiently informed upon it to make any statement to your lordships with regard to it. But I believe I may say this much, that that negotiation of Count Orloff's, so far as I am informed, had only reference to the relations and the proposed relations between Russia and Austria; and I believe that the answer given to those proposals was such as it was fitting should be given by an independent country. (Hear, hear.)

To a question by the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, the Earl of CLARENDON replied, that Sweden and Denmark had given assurances of perfect neutrality in any war that might arise. "We have sent an answer stating that we approve the system of policy which they propose, and the means by which they intend to carry it out, and adding that we shall respect their neutrality."

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH: Have any exceptions been taken by her Majesty's Government with respect to the particular ports enumerated by Sweden?

The Earl of CLARENDON: No exception has been taken by us; but great exception has been taken by Russia to the system which Sweden has announced. (Hear, hear.) Pressed again with respect to Count Orloff's mission, he promised to lay on the table any papers that it may be proper to publish relating to matters that do not concern this country.

In reply to a question from Mr. FRENCH, Lord JOHN RUSSELL stated, that the admirals had been ordered to leave Beicos Bay and to enter the Black Sea. After remaining for some days in Sinope Bay the admiral wrote to say that it would be dangerous to remain any longer in that anchorage, and that if the squadrons remained any longer in the Black Sea it would be the means of promoting any wish the Emperor of Russia might have that the fleets might be disabled. Under these circumstances they thought it their duty to return to Constantinople, with a view of sending out from time to time steamers and screw vessels, in order to obtain that command of the Black Sea which they had been instructed to do by the French and English Governments. He believed that the conduct of the admiral, though the Ambassador had asked for an explanation of it, would be found to deserve the approbation of her Majesty's Government and the country.

Mr. LAYARD inquired first, concerning the return of the combined fleets to Beicos, whether the ambassadors or the admirals were in the wrong? Secondly, touching Count Orloff's mission to Vienna, whether the Government had any official information of its purpose, and if not, who was in fault for the omission? Lord J. RUSSELL replied to the first query, that both the ambassadors and the admirals had done their duty; the former politically in sending the fleets into the Black Sea, the latter professionally by returning when they found the harbour of Sinope unsafe, and the weather tempestuous. Respecting the mission of Count Orloff, he remarked that that envoy had only terminated his negotiations (as the noble lord believed, unsuccessfully) on the 8th, and that England had no direct concern in the business. Some despatches relating to the subject had arrived that afternoon, and when properly selected and prepared would be laid, at the discretion of the Government, before the House.

REFORM OR WAR.

In both Houses of Parliament on Friday night, Ministers were interrogated as to their intentions respecting reform in case of war.

Lord GREY, after commenting on the danger and impolicy of provoking such a discussion in the present political aspect of the country, asked whether it was true that the Government intended to bring forward their measure of Parliamentary Reform before the Army and Navy Estimates had been voted?

Are we, in the midst of preparations for war, to have a dissolution of Parliament or a resignation of the present Ministry? (Hear, hear.) I am not one of those who profess any unbounded confidence in the present advisers of her Majesty, but I own that I should look forward to their resignation at this moment with feelings of alarm and apprehension. (Hear.) It would be impossible for a change of Administration to take place without some disturbance of the regular march of the Government. It is quite true that when the members of an Administration resign they continue to perform the functions of their respective offices until their successors are appointed, and thus there is no actual interruption of the most necessary functions of the executive Government; but we also know that, from the very day on which the resignation of her Majesty's advisers is accepted until their successors are actually installed in office, more than half of the real power of the Government is destroyed. It is utterly impossible, when the reins of power are about to pass from the hands of one set of men to those of another—when it is uncertain whether the measures in progress will not be entirely reversed,—under such circumstances it is, I say, utterly impossible that the Government can be carried on with real vigour and effect.

Lord ABERDEEN said, it was quite true that the measure of Parliamentary Reform would be brought forward on Monday, but its further discussion would not take place until after the Army and Navy Estimates had been voted.

The public business, therefore, will not suffer in consequence of the introduction of the Reform Bill; but her Majesty's Government have felt that their character is at stake, and depends on the introduction of that measure; and, if it had been possible to postpone it, we should have met with the just reprobation of Parliament and the country for taking that course. Noble lords seem to think that we are actually at war. Now, I must say that, not only is that not the case, but I for one deny, although it has been asserted in this house by various noble lords, that war is inevitable. On the contrary, although I admit the case is such as to require ample preparation to meet the danger of war, yet I do not

abandon all hopes of maintaining peace. (Hear, hear.) Practically, therefore, my lords, whatever my hopes or belief may be, they will not affect the course of proceeding of the Government. We shall make all preparation as if war were inevitable. (Hear, hear.) My lords, war in itself is the cause of many calamities to mankind; but it is an additional misfortune that it should interfere with the progress of every social improvement, and with all those measures which most conduce to the welfare of the country. (Hear, hear.) But I cannot admit that the mere apprehension of war is to prevent us from redeeming the pledge which we have given to Parliament and the country, and which we are bound and determined to fulfil. (Hear, hear.)

The Earl of DERBY said, the objections of Lord Grey had not been met. All our attention should be directed to one object only—"preparing for that war, which, I believe, the noble earl at the head of the Government is the only man in the country who does not think imminent." Lord Derby deprecated the introduction of a measure sure to excite party spirit and animosities; and which offered temptations requiring great public virtue to resist. He trusted that a sense of the public welfare would prevent the opponents of the Government from falling into a snare offered by Ministers, and not be parties to any division until Government called upon them to say "Ay" or "No" on the principle of the measure.

A "scene" followed. The Marquis of CLANRICARDE fastened on Lord Aberdeen's statement that we are not at war, and twice asked whether negotiations are going on to stop the hostilities referred to in the Queen's Speech? Lord ABERDEEN made a general answer, which Lord BEAUMONT thought unsatisfactory, and he renewed the question—"Are any negotiations now taking place, on the part of this country, for obtaining peace?" Lord ABERDEEN—"Certainly there are none."

Lord BEAUMONT was continuing, when Lord GRANVILLE rose to order, and commented on the irregularity of these questions respecting the order of business in the House of Commons. Lord CLANRICARDE and Lord GREY stood up for the regularity of asking questions on such important subjects of public policy; protesting against the rebuke administered by Lord Granville. Here the subject dropped.

In the House of Commons, on the ordinary motion for adjournment, arose a conversation on the same subject of the Reform Bill. Lord JOCELYN, with a long preface, asked whether Ministers intended, *bona fide*, to proceed with the Reform Bill? Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied, that on Monday he should bring in the bill; and in order that the discussion of the Estimates might not be interrupted, he would fix the second reading for the 13th of March.

Mr. HUME said, if ever there was a time when Government should endeavour to rally the people to them by a measure of Reform, the present was that time. Mr. DISRAELI threw the responsibility of bringing in such a bill at such a period upon Ministers. He should not oppose the motion on Monday, but if, before the second reading, Lord John had not confessed the error of his ways, "of course there can be no further reserve on our parts," and if the country be agitated Ministers will be responsible. If the object of the measure be to reduce the interest which land possesses in the representation—already unjustly diminished—"we shall offer an uncompromising opposition." Mr. BRIGHT came to the support of Government, and attacked the party spirit displayed on Mr. Disraeli's side.

The right hon. gentleman himself had been the true disturber of the country, as far as he could, in accordance with his own views, now admitted by himself to be mistaken. (Hear, hear.) For seven years, and till a certain great delusion was exploded, the press which represented the views of gentlemen opposite were disturbing the kingdom on a question that offered tenfold more dangers than the question of reform. (Hear, hear.) He thought it would be a grand spectacle to the world if it could be shown that when, unhappily, they were in circumstances—he would not say of difficulty, but in circumstances of war—so firm were the institutions of this country, that it was possible for Government to propose to Parliament to consider and pass a measure, which was not to restrict the rights of the people, not to increase the military force for the sake of keeping them down, not to make freedom less, but to make freedom more to the people of this country. (Hear, hear.) He could scarcely conceive, amid such calamities as those of war, a more noble spectacle offered to the nations of the world. (Hear, hear.)

Lord JOHN MANNERS taunted Mr. Bright with holding "select tea-parties," instead of public meetings among his constituents; and sneered at Lord John Russell for suffering the measures he proposed to go into their untimely graves, "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung."

PREVENTION OF BRIBERY.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL then moved for leave to bring in two bills; one, "to consolidate and amend the laws relating to bribery, treating, and undue influence at elections of members of Parliament;" the other, "to amend the law for the trial of election petitions, and for inquiring into the existence of corrupt practices at elections of members to serve in Parliament." Lord John stated the provisions of the bills at length. He proposes to abolish the high pecuniary penalties for the offence of bribery, and rather to debar persons aiming to be elected by corrupt practices from obtaining their object, than by inflicting very severe penalties, which may not be enforced. He proposes that persons guilty of bribery shall be for ever incapable of being elected members of Parliament; and persons guilty of treating and undue influence shall be incapable of electing any member for the same place during the same Parliament. A copy of all convictions for bribery shall be kept by the Speaker in a book of disqualifications; and the names of persons guilty of bribery shall be struck off the register of voters, but kept in a separate list of persons guilty of receiving bribes and published. With respect to election petitions, he would propose that all petitions alleging corrupt practices shall be referred to a preliminary committee, which should be in "the nature of a grand jury," and consist of fifteen

members to be chosen by the General Committee of Elections. If they were satisfied that there was a sufficient case, they would report to the House, and a committee, as usual, would be appointed. If the Election Committee found the petition had probable grounds, the expense of proceeding to be defrayed by the public; if the contrary, than the petitioner to pay expenses. Another mode might be this: when it is proved that an unsuccessful candidate has two-thirds of the votes of his opponent elected by bribery, then that candidate shall have the seat. Where an election committee report that bribery extensively prevails in any borough, then, without an address, the Crown shall have power to issue a commission. He would give the Crown power to nominate commissioners, restricting the choice to revising barristers. One considerable alteration with respect to election committees would be, that upon the dissolution of Parliament, the Crown should appoint ten barristers of ten years' standing to act as assessors to election committees, in order to obtain a uniformity of decision. He proposed that when a committee has reported any person guilty of bribery, the Attorney-General should prosecute at once.

Some lengthened comments were made upon the proposed measure. Mr. M. GIBSON approved of the attempt to extinguish electoral corruption, but doubted whether any remedy would be found complete which did not include the ballot. He considered that the proposal to give a seat in parliament to a candidate not returned by the majority of the recorded votes, was unconstitutional under any circumstances.

Sir F. KELLY concurred in this interpretation of the constitutional law.

Col. SIRTHORP reiterated his conviction that Ministers would never make an honest effort to abolish corruption. Talk of bribery and corruption!—why the Treasury bench stunk of bribery. (A laugh.) And yet they wanted to prevent men, such as himself, from performing the common Christian duties of life except at the risk of being charged with bribery and corruption!

Mr. HUME suggested the means of supplying some deficiencies in the proposed bills, and recommended the ballot as one of the best.

The noble lord the member for London had introduced most of the great and important measures tending to a reform of the representation of the country since he (Mr. Hume) had been a member of the House, and he appealed to the noble lord now to add a crowning triumph to his parliamentary career by giving the country an opportunity of fairly trying the vote by ballot. (Cheers.) He suggested to the noble lord the propriety of introducing a clause into the proposed bill to enable a constituency to make a fair trial of the vote by ballot, providing two-thirds of the electors of such constituency requested a trial to be made. By pursuing such a course the House would have an opportunity of seeing how the vote by ballot would act, and the result of the experience thus gained would enable the House to decide finally upon the question hereafter.

After some remarks by Mr. PACE, Mr. H. BERKELEY noticed that there was little or no protection offered against intimidation. Believing that there was no effectual shield except the ballot, he declared his purpose of again bringing before the House that important measure—whose adoption he felt convinced was only a question of time. Mr. PHINN also denounced the prevalent practice of intimidation, but recommended for its prevention that it should be made an indictable offence.

A discussion, turning chiefly upon points of detail, was continued by Mr. Miles, Mr. Rich, Mr. Warner, Mr. G. Phillimore, Mr. Ball, Sir B. Hall, and other members. Leave was then given to bring in the bills.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT.

Mr. BAINES then asked for leave to bring in a bill to abolish in England and Wales the compulsory removal of the poor on the ground of settlement, and to make provision for the more equitable distribution of relief in unions. He scarcely explained his measure further than by showing the nature of the laws which he proposed to abrogate. The law of settlement, which originated in the time of Charles the Second, does not, as many suppose, convey the right of relief—that is involved in the simple fact of destitution; but it gives to any parish where the pauper would otherwise be chargeable the right of conveying him to "the place of his last settlement"—gained by apprenticeship and some other acts of continued residence. There are 14,614 parishes; varying excessively in size, in wealth, and population; and greatly altered in condition since the law was established. The operation of the law is to drive the labouring classes off the estates of landowners, and out of parishes whither they must repair for their daily work, to towns where they are crowded in unhealthy dwellings; to divert the natural course of industry—as where a farmer will give work to a bad workman chargeable on the parish, to keep him out of the workhouse, and deny it to a good workman of another parish, thus depressing the character of labour; to occasion vexatious removal of poor persons, lest they "complete their settlement"—40,000 persons being removed in the year, at great expense; to occasion much litigation between parishes, and consequent law-expense; and, in short, to inflict expense and trouble on parishes, to create unhealthy neighbourhoods in towns, to occasion much inconvenience and suffering to the industrious poor, and to impede the free circulation of labour. Objecting to "national rating" and charge on the Consolidated Fund as removed from local control, and viewing equal rating as impracticable at present, Mr. Baines proposed to correct gross inequalities of rating, by extending the charge from the parish to the union; which embraces diversities of districts, is a recognized division of the county, and is subject to local management. Gilbert unions would not be comprised in the bill.

The proposed measure was received with great variety of feeling, but on the whole in a friendly spirit. Sir G. GREY, Mr. VERNON SMITH, and Sir J. PAKING-

TON were amongst the approvers. Several of the agricultural members rather warmly denounced it. Mr. PACE said, the change in the area of rating from parishes to unions would be productive of the grossest injustice. Mr. HENLEY characterized the measure as a confiscation of a large portion of the property of the country, and complained of a union rating, as in some cases, where the union district was large, weakening the control of the ratepayers.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

On Monday evening Lord JOHN RUSSELL moved for leave to bring in bills further to amend the representation of the people in England and Wales. Both the expectations and the fears which the news of a Reform Bill had lately excited, had, he believed, been much exaggerated. At present we had no vast change in prospect, and, he hoped, no public outbreak, and no collision between different branches of the Legislature to dread. What was now proposed was but to review in the Reform Act what was deficient, to amend in it what required amendment, and improve what seemed susceptible of improvement. He had been told, he observed, in the way of objection, that we were now on the brink of a war; but this objection did not prevail with Mr. Pitt in 1782, when the country was in greater peril; nor with Mr. Grey in 1793, 1797, and 1810.

But, much as I abhor war, much as I deprecate the evils of war, I confess I do not view war with that apprehension with which some hon. gentlemen seem to regard it. I can conceive that we should be able to provide all the means necessary to carry on war with vigour—and, if carried on at all, it ought to be carried on with vigour—(cheers)—and, at the same time, have full time for deliberation on those of our domestic concerns which appear most to require consideration. (Hear, hear.) This apprehension of our being unable to attend to those topics from the time war should be declared—if unfortunately war should be declared—this idea that there is such danger in Russian armaments and forces, appears to me, I confess, one of those thoughts which may be described as having in it only one part of wisdom and three parts of cowardice, and I must say it does not affect me. (Hear, hear.)

The noble Lord then described the condition of the representation in 1793, showed the great improvements which had been introduced by the Reform Bill of 1832, and, after pronouncing a short eulogy on the practical measures which had been passed by the reformed parliament, addressed himself to the immediate object of his present motion. There were, he observed, three main defects in the Reform Act, which required the serious attention of the House. First, although a very large disfranchisement of boroughs was made by the Reform Act, there were still several boroughs which had hardly a sufficient number of electors to justify their retaining the power of sending members to Parliament. He did not concur in the opinion, that there ought to be anything like an equal number of electors in every place returning members. His belief was that they would hardly get a fair representation of the people without some variety in this respect in our system. But he objected to class distinctions and animosities.

A great portion of the people, consisting of many of the most moderate and calm men, justly thought that the landed aristocracy were useful to the country, contributing to the maintenance and stability of the free institutions of the State, and who likewise were of opinion that the country derived great benefit from the industry of the commercial and manufacturing classes. (Hear, hear.) If, then, you were to adopt such a plan of reform as would give the representation only to counties and large cities, you would want that mediating element, that infusion of moderation, which is derived from those members who are returned by neither counties nor large towns. (Hear.) I think, likewise, that it would be impossible—I will not say whether it would be desirable or not—but I think it would be impossible in the present social state of this country, with our law of primogeniture and with the great proprietors who are found in this country, to attempt to prevent the influence of those great proprietors affecting the returns for counties. That is an evil which has been frequently pointed out as one that ought to be got rid of; but it is not with that view I think it necessary to make the changes which I now propose.

At the passing of the Reform Bill he had thought 300 electors to a constituency was the proper *minimum*; but he found there were several boroughs which fell below that number, and that in others, although the number exceeded 300, yet the population fell below 5,000. These boroughs, amounting to 19, and returning 29 members, he proposed to disfranchise altogether. Certain other boroughs he found had less than 500 electors, or less than 10,000 inhabitants, and from these he proposed to take away 33 representatives, which, with the preceding, would give 62 seats. Another defect in the Reform Act consisted in the manner in which the counties were divided—into opposite camps, according as people are connected with land or with trade. They had seen—that was not the case before—the county members too exclusive, generally, on their part, in respect to the interest they cared for, and the members for great cities too exclusive, also, on their part. This defect he proposed to correct in the distribution of the 62 seats.

In looking over the numbers that have voted for some of the larger counties and for some of the great cities, I find that there are 2,000, 3,000, and 4,000 who vote for the unsuccessful candidate, while perhaps 100 or 150 more are found on the side of the successful candidate. It appears to us that many advantages would attend the enabling the minority to have a part in these returns. In the first place, there is apt to be a feeling of great soreness when a very considerable number of electors, such as I have mentioned, are completely

shut out from a share in the representation. In the next place, I think that the more you have your representation confined to large populations, the more ought you to take care that there shall be some kind of balance, and that the large places returning members to this House shall send those who represent the community in general. Now, when there is a very large body excluded, it cannot be said that the community at large is fairly represented. Our plan would only be adopted when three members represent a county or city. When that is the case, supposing there to be a decided majority, even of 100 or 150, that majority should at all events have two members out of the three, so that in this House there might be two to one on any division that might take place. I think, besides, that such a provision would have a great tendency to prevent angry contests. We shall propose to take population generally as the rule to be applied in the manner I have stated. We shall take in the first place the West Riding of the county of York, which has nearly 800,000 inhabitants, besides the inhabitants of towns which are represented. We shall take the county of Lancaster, the southern division of which has, I think, about 500,000 inhabitants. We shall divide these two counties, and to each of these divisions we propose to give three members; and, going on with counties and with towns, we shall propose to give an additional member to each county and to each town which has more than 100,000 inhabitants. Then we shall propose that, in giving their votes, the electors shall vote as they do at present, only for two candidates out of the three, so that when the minority exceeds two-fifths of the whole number of electors, they will be enabled to have one representative out of the three who are to be returned. [This statement was followed, for some moments, by a low murmur of conversation among hon. members.] The consequence of taking this rule will be, that four members will be added for the West Riding of York, and four for the South Lancashire division, and there will be, I think, 38 for other counties, making 46 altogether. There are also eight towns having more than 100,000 inhabitants, and the borough of Salford, with more than 80,000 inhabitants, which at present return representatives; without including the metropolitan boroughs, for we have considered the metropolitan boroughs as parts of one great city, and not as separate towns of themselves—(cheers from the Opposition)—and to each of these towns we propose to give one additional member. We shall propose, also, to give one member to each of three towns which have more than 20,000 inhabitants each—Birkenhead, Staleybridge, and Burnley. (Cheers.) We shall then propose—what has been often asked—that Kensington and Chelsea shall be formed into a borough, and that two members shall be sent to Parliament from that district. (Cheers.) There is another kind of representation which has been often advocated, and which we propose, at least in some degree, to recommend. I will first mention the Inns of Court. (Cheers, and laughter.) I know some hon. gentlemen think that we have already a sufficient number of lawyers in this House. (Laughter, and loud and continued cheering.) But, Sir, my own persuasion is that, when we have put the representation in the position in which we propose to place it, it would be most beneficial that we should have two of the most eminent lawyers in the country returned to this House, and I believe, while, of course, lawyers would have as good a chance as any other candidates, if not a better, in boroughs in general—(laughter)—that the lawyers who belong to the Inns of Court would take a pride in choosing two of the most eminent of their profession to represent them in this House. We propose, therefore, to give two members to the Inns of Court. We propose, likewise, to give one member to the University of London. (Hear, hear.) Considering that the two great Universities—the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge—are so much connected with the Church, I think it is only fair that a University which opens its doors to the whole country should have the power of sending a member to this House. (Hear, and cheers.)

He next adverted to a third defect in the Reform Act, He thought that, in taking the £10 borough franchise, and abolishing the intricate franchises then existing, Parliament had confined itself too much to one species, and it was proposed now to make several new franchises common to counties and towns.

"We propose, then, in the first place, that there shall be several franchises common to the counties and to the towns; and that these qualifications shall entitle a person to vote in the place in which he resides, whether he be resident in a county or in a borough. The first qualification we propose is £100 salary, derived from any employment, public or private. It is provided that such salary shall be paid half-yearly or quarterly, so that the qualification shall not apply to persons who receive weekly wages. I conceive that this franchise will bring in a very intelligent body of men. (Cheers.) The next franchise we propose is £10 a year derived from dividends either from the funds, from Bank Stock, or from East India Stock. The next is somewhat similar, though a higher qualification than that which I proposed two years ago—namely, 40s. payment either to the income-tax or to the assessed taxes within the year. (Hear, hear.) Those who pay the income-tax will receive votes for the present, and when they lose their votes they will have the compensation of getting rid of the tax. (Cheers and laughter.) We propose, likewise, that graduates of any university in the United Kingdom shall have the right of voting (hear, hear), to which we conceive they are entitled by their education and attainments. We propose, also, that any persons having deposits of £50 in savings banks, which have remained in such banks for not less than three years, shall be entitled to votes. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) I think if the franchise were given to depositors whose money had been in the banks for a less period than three years, there would be considerable danger of the creation of fictitious votes (hear, hear), but I have no doubt the House will concur in the opinion that a *bona fide* holder of £50 in a savings bank has given a proof of prudence and frugality which entitles him to a voice in the election of representatives. (Hear, hear.)

Lord John next proceeded to define the franchises belonging exclusively to counties or boroughs. Considering that they did not propose to add to any great extent to the number of towns sending members to Parliament—indeed, they only proposed to establish three new boroughs, he believed it would be a very great advantage to persons who lived in towns which had not the right of sending members to Parliament, that they should have a voice in the representation of the counties in which they resided.

We propose, therefore, to adopt a suggestion which has more than once been made to this House—namely, that £10 occupiers shall have a vote for counties. (Cheers.) With respect to that right, whether in counties or in boroughs, we intend to check an abuse which has prevailed. Under the words "any buildings and lands occupied therewith," persons

run up a shed of the value of only 2s. 6d. a-year, making out the rent in land, and a species of voters was thereby created who were never contemplated by the act. (Hear, hear.) We propose, therefore, with respect to this county right of voting, that—with the exception of a dwelling-house, which may be of any value provided the voter lives in it—in all other cases the building must be of the value of £5 a-year. Supposing there is a house and land—the house may be rated at £1 or £2 a-year, provided the voter resides in it, but if the qualification is made out by any other building—a cattle-shed, or any building of that kind, then we propose this check, that such building shall be of the value of £5 a-year. This, then, is the franchise we propose to give in counties for the future, and the House will see that it has a very considerable bearing upon the question of the increase of the number of members which I have stated we propose. Out of the whole number I have mentioned I shall propose that forty-six members shall be given to counties; but, as these counties will hereafter include the £10 householders, it is obvious that the constituencies will be less of a special character. (Hear, hear.)

With respect to the borough franchise, it appeared to him that, in taking the £10 franchise so absolutely as was done in 1831, sufficient provision was not made for the admission of the working-classes, and, seeing the character of those classes, and how much the wealth of the country depended upon them, he thought the door ought to be opened wider than it now was.

I myself do not at all shrink from saying that I think the extension of the franchise which I proposed two years ago—namely, to £5 householders, did not go too far; but, at the same time, I knew that proposition would give rise to great objection on the part of those who think that would be carrying the franchise to too low a point, and that we should not thereby get the intelligence and independence we wished to obtain. Yielding to some extent to that opinion, we turned our attention to the municipal franchise. Two objections may be urged against the adoption of the municipal franchise. One is, that we should make municipal elections always the precursors of Parliamentary elections, and thereby expose municipal boroughs to continual excitement and agitation. The other is, that, under a certain act which passed two or three years ago, the rates of all houses under a certain value may be compounded for by the landlord, who thereby becomes the sole payer of the rates. I purpose taking the limit laid down in that act. It must be acknowledged that the fact of a man living in a house is to a certain degree a proof of independence, and, as to the amount of the value, without intending to say that all persons living in houses of less than £6 value are venal, we have determined to draw the line there, and to provide that all persons living in houses of above £6 value shall be entitled to vote, on condition that they have fulfilled the municipal term of residence—namely, about two years and a-half before they can be placed on the register, or two years and ten months before they can exercise the right of voting. This is an extension of the suffrage which will include those among the working classes who are most remarkable for residence and conduct—those who are most remarkable for their skill and enterprise in their respective trades, and are thereby able to live in houses of better character than those occupied by the great mass of their fellow-workmen. There is one change we purpose making, both with respect to this new franchise and the old £10 franchise. Considering that a voter must be a person living either in a house of £10 value, or in one rated at £6 a year, and must be in employment for a considerable time before he can vote, it appears to us to be no longer necessary to keep in force the previous payment of rates and taxes, and therefore we propose that, in future, persons on the register shall give their votes without being subject to the check. (Hear, hear.) We propose another change in the existing law with respect to the register of electors. There have been various decisions in election committees upon the question of striking names off the register; now we make the register of voters final. (Hear, hear.) I, perhaps, have not explained myself with sufficient clearness on the subject of the £10 franchise. We preserve this franchise exactly as it is, with the exception of two changes, one of which provides that, if the franchise is claimed in respect of buildings and dwelling-house of the joint value of £10, the buildings must be of the value of £5 a year; the other change relates to the payment of rates and taxes, which will no longer be insisted on. To this franchise will now be added the new one, founded on a residence of two years and a half, or two years and ten months in a house rated at £6 in a municipal borough. Any person fulfilling that condition can compel the overseer to put his name on the register.

Another change of considerable importance was contemplated. Among the complaints of bribery and corruption made against certain boroughs, it had been represented that one class of electors—namely, freemen, were peculiarly obnoxious to the change; and it was proposed that, after the expiration of existing interests, freemen should have no right to vote. Another change (which should be the subject of a separate bill) was in the act of Anne, concerning the vacating of seats of members of the House of Commons on acceptance of office, which it was proposed to repeal. It must be obvious that there were many things which a member might do fully as important as taking office, without asking the opinion of his constituents. For instance, he might totally change his course of politics. (Hear, hear, and laughter from the Opposition.) Upon such an occasion he might or might not think it advisable to go before his constituents, but the decision on that point rested with himself. For various reasons we thought the operation of the statute in question was not generally beneficial, while it was very often inconvenient, and, therefore, they proposed its abolition, and to allow any member—as was the case during the reign of William III.—to accept office under the Crown without vacating his seat. The noble lord then recapitulated the number of seats that would be disposed of.

"I mentioned to the House two classes of boroughs from which respectively 29 and 33 seats are to be taken. To these 62 seats it is necessary to add four more which are now vacant, making a total of 66. I will state the places to which we propose giving 63 of the vacant seats. The remaining 3 will be given by a measure which I will not now stop to describe, to populous places and universities of Scotland. First, as regards the places from which seats will be taken. The following boroughs, having less than 300 electors, or less than 5,000 inhabitants, will be disfranchised:—Andover, returning 2 members; Arundel 1; Ashburton 1; Calne 1; Dartmouth 1; Evesham 2; Harwich 2; Honiton 2; Knaresborough 2; Lyme Regis 1; Marl-

borough 2; Midhurst 1; Northallerton 1; Reigate 1; Richmond (Yorkshire) 2; Thetford 2; Totnes 2; Wells 2; Wilton 1.—Total, 19 boroughs, returning 29 members. The following boroughs having less than 500 electors, or less than 10,000 inhabitants, will lose one seat each:—Bodmin, Bridgenorth, Bridport, Buckingham, Chichester, Chippenham, Cirencester, Cockermouth, Devizes, Dorchester, Guildford, Hertford, Huntingdon, Leominster, Lewes, Ludlow, Lymington, Lichfield, Maldon, Malton, Marlow (Great), Newport (Isle of Wight), Peterborough, Poole, Ripon, Stamford, Tamworth, Tavistock, Tewkesbury, Tiverton, Weymouth, Windsor, Wycombe (Chipping)—total, 33 members. The counties and divisions of counties containing a population of more than 100,000, and at present returning two members, to which an additional member will be given, are these:—Bedford; Chester, southern division; ditto, northern; Cornwall, western; ditto, eastern; Derby, northern; ditto southern; Devon southern; ditto, northern; Durham, northern; ditto, southern; Essex, southern; ditto, northern; Gloucester, western; Kent, western; ditto, eastern; Lancaster, northern; Lincoln, parts of Lindsey; ditto, parts of Kesteven and Holland; Middlesex; Monmouth; Norfolk, western; ditto, eastern; Stafford, northern; ditto, southern; Somerset, western; ditto, eastern; Salop, northern; Southampton, northern; Suffolk, eastern; ditto, western; Surrey, eastern; Sussex, eastern; Warwick, northern; Worcester, eastern; York, East Riding; ditto, North. Wales.—Glamorgan, 1. Additional members, 38. The cities and boroughs containing more than 100,000 inhabitants, at present returning two members, but hereafter are to return three:—Birmingham, Bristol (city), Bradford (Yorkshire), Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester (city), Sheffield, Wolverhampton; Salford, to return in future two members—total, 9 members. Unrepresented towns, containing more than 20,000 inhabitants, to receive one member each, are:—Birkenhead, Burnley, Staleybridge—total, 3 members. I have already mentioned that the West Riding of Yorkshire and South Lancashire are each to be divided into two parts, with two members each, which will appropriate eight more of the vacant seats. The new borough of Chelsea and Kensington will take two more; the Inns of Court, two; the London University, one; and all these together, with the three seats reserved for Scotland, make up the total number of 66.

A MEMBER asked whether each division of the West Riding and South Lancashire was to have three members?

Lord J. RUSSELL.—Yes. It may be convenient to the House if I give a summary of the manner in which we propose disposing of the 66 vacant seats. It is thus:—

Counties, and divisions of counties	...	38
West Riding	...	4
South Lancashire	...	4—46
Three new boroughs, one each	...	3
One new borough	...	2
Nine boroughs, one each additional	...	9
Inns of Court	...	2
London University	...	1
Scotland	...	3
Total	...	66

I have stated the general provisions of the measure, I hope not at too great length, but in such a way as to make it understood by the House. I will not enter further into any general considerations connected with the subject. It is my belief that the measure will tend to correct defects which, sooner or later, must be amended, and that, by adding to the number of persons privileged to return members to this House, we shall give a wider basis to our representation, and thereby contribute to the strength and security of our constitution, and cause the people to feel greater confidence in it. With these observations I ask leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the representation of the people in England and Wales.

Inquiries were addressed to the noble Lord upon various points by many members, among whom, Mr. ELLICE vindicated the character of the freemen, and complained of the meditated prospective disfranchisement of this class of electors. He was supported by his colleague, Mr. GRACE, who praised the freemen of Coventry.

Colonel SIBTHORP hoped that the freemen of Lincoln would treat with the same contempt that he did the unjust, unnecessary, and unworthy observations of the noble lord. He wished that Her Majesty's Ministers might be as honest, upright, and straightforward as they were. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.)

Sir B. HALL remarked on the inconsistency of leaving the metropolitan boroughs with a less number of representatives than were to be given to other cities having more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Mr. PHILLIMORE thought the project of the noble lord the member for the city of London, as to the representation of minorities, was certainly a whimsical one, to say the least of it, and he wished to know if the noble lord would have any objection to apply the principle to the proceedings of that House, so that out of every three measures the majority might carry two, and the minority one? (A laugh.) He certainly disagreed with the noble lord's proposal to repeal the act which obliged all persons accepting place to vacate their seats. It was part of a system, and, though it might produce great inconveniences at times, yet these were, without doubt, entirely balanced by its advantages. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. TUFNELL regretted that the bill contained no provision relating to the property qualification. He had abstained last year from bringing the subject before the House, hoping that it would be included in the anticipated measure of reform, a hope which was strengthened by the fact that, in the constitutions recently granted to the colonies, we declare that persons qualified to be electors should be also qualified for representatives.

Mr. HUME contended that greater provision should be made for admitting the artisan class to the franchise. Of all parts of the measure he most approved of schedule A. He hoped, however, that the House would never pass that part of the bill which related to the representation of the minority. All our institutions were grounded on the preponderance of the majority, and such a principle as the noble lord now sought to introduce was entirely new. He should also have much preferred that the noble lord should have brought down the suffrage to one universal standard—the municipal suffrage.

Mr. DRUMMOND considered that the tendency of this

measure was to sever property and power, and to promote the ends of a party seeking to establish a democracy in England.

I do not believe it signifies at all whether you discuss it in a state of war or peace,—the measure contains in itself that which must be sooner or later destructive. It is of no use in the world speaking of it in other language; it is incense offered to that party which for twenty-one years the noble lord has idolized, the party which honestly, and without disguise, declares that its intention and hope is to establish shortly a democracy in this country. (Loud cheers from the Opposition.)

Lord J. RUSSELL, in the course of his reply, stated that the principles embodied in the bill he asked leave to introduce would be applied generally to Ireland and Scotland. The hon. baronet the member for Marylebone has asked why there was not a greater addition to the number of the metropolitan members. Now, they proposed to create Chelsea and Kensington into a borough to return two members, and really he thought that would be sufficient addition to the metropolitan members. (Hear, hear.) His right hon. friend the member for Coventry complained of the proposal for the future disfranchisement of freemen. From all inquiries made, there seemed to be at least a general opinion that freemen were a class more particularly liable to be worked upon by bribery and corruption, and he proposed, therefore, not disfranchising those at present existing, but to prevent any such class for the future from coming in. He did not wish to enter into any of the details of the bill now, but rather wished that the House should consider those details when they had the bill before them. The hon. member for West Surrey said that the whole plan of this bill was intended to advance democracy. He differed entirely in this from the hon. gentleman. (Hear, hear.) Let the hon. gentleman be persuaded that, as my noble friend the Home Secretary has said in one of his celebrated speeches, there were two kinds of revolutionists—one who sought by tumult and violence directly to change the form of government, and those who, by opposing well-considered and useful plans of reform, impeded all moderate progress, and thus caused those violent changes which they themselves most deprecate. My belief is, that the present measure was what my noble friend at the head of the Government had in anticipation described it to be, "a liberal and conservative measure." With regard to the questions put to me as to the numbers of the constituency, I really have not ventured to bring any calculation before the House.

Mr. W. D. SEYMOUR inquired whether the two years and a-half residence was to be in the same house or in the same borough? Lord J. RUSSELL: In the same borough, but not necessarily in the same house.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE thought that, on the whole, the bill, with some amendments, would be a very excellent measure. The next thing the noble lord had to do was to convince the country that he and his Government were in earnest, and that they were determined to pass a bill to improve the representation of the people. They must on no account listen to the evil counsels with which he was no doubt beset—to postpone the discussion of this measure until the question of peace or war was decided, or the war ended. He held in his hand a list of 100 gentlemen who met at Lord Derby's in 1852, after the "little Reform Bill" was introduced by the noble lord (Lord J. Russell), and who resolved to oppose it vigorously. If they opposed the little bill of 1852, of course they would oppose the larger bill now proposed. (Laughter.) But all the noble lord (Lord J. Russell) had to do was to convince the country he was in earnest; and to render the measure popular in the country depended upon how wide the noble lord opened the door to the industrial classes of the community. (Cheers.) He thought the noble lord had not opened that door wide enough. (Hear, hear.) The two years and a-half residence proposed by the noble lord would in some cases be in effect three years and a-half, inasmuch as a man might not take up his residence until just before the registration took place, and, consequently, his claim could not be considered until a year had elapsed. It would be seen, then, that that clause would exclude a large number from the possession of the franchise.

Mr. E. BALL expressed his gratitude to the noble lord the member for London for his proposal to give the London University the right of being represented in the House of Commons.

Mr. HAYWOOD observed, that in the county of Lancaster the division of the £10 householders would about double the number of electors, and at the same time it would, of course, double the expense of elections, as twice the number of electors would have to be brought to the poll upon each occasion.

Mr. MURDOUGH regretted to find that the just introduced measure contained no provision for abolishing the property qualifications of members.

Mr. MAGUIRE condemned the proposals for repealing the enactment which obliged a member, on taking office, to go back to his constituents.

Leave was then given to bring in the bills.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE IRISH MEMBERS.

The appointment of a Committee of Privileges to examine the charges of trafficking in places, brought by certain journals against some Irish members of the House, was moved by Mr. I. BUTT. Twenty members were proposed to be nominated for this purpose. Mr. HUME and Sir G. GREY thought the number too great for useful working. Mr. LUCAS insisted that further measures were requisite to arrive at a complete discovery of the facts. He contended that the question of trading in Government appointments was frequent both in England and Ireland, and supported his conclusion by reading a number of advertisements in which a price, under strict promises of secrecy, was offered for the article. Sir J. PAKINGTON and Lord W. BENTINCK offered some suggestions regarding the constitution of the proposed committee. The SPEAKER

stated the ordinary practice observed in similar cases, according to which fifteen was the maximum number of members appointed on a select committee of privileges. Mr. E. DENISON suggested that five members were enough, and that the committee of elections should be entrusted with their nomination.

The discussion was pursued for some time, the point in dispute being whether the committee should consist of the original twenty, or some less number of members. Mr. I. Butt at first stood out for the full panel, but afterwards consented to take fifteen. This was finally adopted, and a resolution passed that fifteen members should be appointed. Mr. Butt read that number of names, which he gave notice, for the following night of his intention of proposing for appointment. Mr. J. O'CONNELL, whose name was among them, announced that he should, at the proper time, move that another be substituted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. WILSON PATTEN on Thursday said that the report of the Commissioners to inquire into corrupt practices at the Hull election contained upwards of two thousand pages, that 82,000 questions had been put to the different witnesses, that the report weighed 11 tons 6 cwt., and that the cost of printing it was £1,750. (Hear, hear.) He wished to know from his hon. friend whether any questions had been put to the commissioners as to the circumstance which rendered this enormous expense to the country necessary. Mr. WILSON said that every care was taken to investigate the subject, and every power which the Treasury possessed was exercised to mark their displeasure at that excessive expenditure. The Act of Parliament did not fix the remuneration of the commissioners, but the Treasury fixed it at £5 5s. a day. It was the practice, however, to give a sum of £50 for the preparation of the report to each of the commissioners. On this occasion they did not allow this sum of £50 to the commissioners, and that was the only power which they possessed.

Mr. HUME having inquired for correspondence respecting the slave trade to Cuba, Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that since the appointment of the new Governor, there was some appearance of amendment in the conduct of the Spanish authorities. It was not usual to give the correspondence before the end of the session. It might be advisable to anticipate that time, but he thought it better to wait and see if the new Governor-general would carry into effect the promise that a different course of conduct would be pursued in Cuba.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL told Mr. Milnes that a protestant burial ground would be allowed at Madrid, and that it might be closed in such a manner as the British Government might approve of. The subject was referred to the Board of Works, and measures would be taken for enclosing that ground. According to the Spanish law it was not permitted to have any ceremony of Protestant worship in burial grounds previous to interment. But they would not interfere with the conduct of Protestants within the enclosure.

Mr. R. KEATING asked if it was the intention of the Government to introduce a measure relative to assurance associations. Mr. WILSON replied that the Government were desirous of receiving further information on this subject, as the report of the commission last year was deemed insufficient. The report of the commission as to joint-stock companies generally was soon expected to be ready; and then the Government would give further information as to their intentions on this subject.

In answer to Mr. WISE, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he hoped to be enabled to introduce a measure relating to savings' banks this session, which would not materially differ from the shape the bill of last year assumed on passing through committee.

Mr. WILSON, in reply to Mr. HANKEY, said that the Postmaster-General had made arrangements with several of the colonies over which he had no control for a uniform postage of sixpence per letter, one penny of which would go to the inland postage at home, one penny for the inland postage at the colony, and the remaining fourpence would be the ocean rate.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER has stated, in reply to Mr. MITCHELL, that Government would wait to see the effect of the alterations made last session in the Customs department, before proposing to alter the constitution of the Board.

On Thursday Ministers were defeated in the House of Commons. Mr. THOMAS CHAMBERS moved for a Select Committee to investigate the claims of Yulle, Shortridge, and Company against the Portuguese Government, for losses incurred through breach of treaty. Lord J. RUSSELL, without justifying the conduct of the Portuguese Government, still less its tribunals, observed that, if the course proposed by Mr. Chambers were adopted, a precedent would be set for a course of proceeding different from the ordinary modes in which these cases were reviewed and adjusted, and which would impose upon Parliament a very inconvenient and almost impracticable task. He must, therefore, oppose the motion. The motion was supported by Mr. Horsfall, Mr. Atherton, Mr. Seymour, Sir J. Shelley, and Mr. Oliveira, and, upon a division, was carried by 126 to 74.

In reply to Mr. PELLATT, Lord J. RUSSELL, on Monday night, said that Government were prepared to adopt the recommendation of the Common Law Commissioners, enabling persons who objected to take an oath to make an affirmation instead. A provision to that effect would be introduced in a bill.

The SECRETARY at WAR, on Monday, explained the regulations now in force regarding the stoppages and provisioning of the troops. The sum formerly paid by each soldier for his rations used to vary with the price of provisions—6d. being the maximum, and during the war that amount was always reached. Of late years the cost had diminished, and, although prices were again enhanced, it had been determined to make the stoppage a fixed sum of 4½d., accompanied with much

improvement of quality, especially in the bread supplied, and subject to periodical revisions, so that in no case could the Government profit at the expense of the soldier. During the present year it was estimated that the extra expense to the country caused by this boon to the army would be from £120,000 to £130,000.

Prior to the introduction of the Reform Bill on Monday night, Mr. BRIGHT presented a petition from 3,690 householders of Liverpool, praying for investigation into recent election proceedings in that borough, where votes were sold at from £2 to £60 a piece, and contests had cost £40,000 a side; and urging for the disfranchisement of the whole body of freemen electors, as being peculiarly open to the charge of corruption.

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

THE GERMAN POWERS AND THE LAST APPEALS.

The Continental papers abound in rumours of renewed negotiations, probably circulated by Russian agents. Some of the Paris papers assert that England and France have given their consent to a proposal for a separate negotiation. Opinion still differs as to the actual position of the German Powers. The truth probably is, that neither Russia nor the Western Courts have as yet gained a decided victory at Vienna and Berlin; and that even in the Ministerial councils and family circles of those Courts an undecided contest is still going on. It seems, nevertheless, certain that Prussia, without consulting any other Power, rejected the propositions of Baron Budberg for annulling the engagements made by the protocols of Vienna. The answer of Austria was somewhat less firm and explicit, but she, too, positively declined the proposition of an armed neutrality under Russian protection; and she required in exchange for any promise of neutrality at all, that Russia should positively pledge herself not to extend her military operations in European Turkey, not to acquire any increase of territory, not to assume any interference in the internal affairs of the Ottoman empire, and not to demand any right which did not belong to her under former treaties with Turkey. These declarations of both the German Courts have been forwarded to St. Petersburg, accompanied by the strongest remonstrances against the effects produced by the policy of Russia on the general interests of Europe, and by an appeal to the tremendous responsibility which the Emperor Nicholas incurs by persisting in the rejection of reasonable terms of peace. A similar personal appeal has been addressed to the Emperor by Louis Napoleon, in an autograph letter.

Count Orloff has left Vienna for St. Petersburg. M. de Bourquény has written to say that the Count, when taking leave of M. de Buol, took him by the hand and said, "I hope that three days after my arrival in St. Petersburg I shall be able to send you good news."

The conference relative to the Oriental question is formally dissolved.

In the *Milan Gazette* of February 1, there occurs the following passage:—"Some journals and correspondence from Paris, affirm that the two German powers design to depart from the system of neutrality which has been announced, and that they have rallied to the Anglo-French policy. These journals and this correspondence are mistaken, and will be forced to admit, sooner or later, that neither Austria nor Prussia has any intention of abandoning their neutral attitude in regard to the Eastern question." This is an explicit official contradiction to the reports upon which the *quid nuncs* of Paris and London have principally battened for the last fortnight.

The recent article of the *Lloyd* against Russia, has sold off two editions of the paper, and is now separately printed. The same paper has published another article against Russia, the sum of which is, that Central Europe must unite to resist that Power, whether on the Oder or the Danube, if it would not experience the fate of Poland. The Austrian army concentrating on the frontier of Serbia, will constitute an effective force of 80,000 men, all of whom are choice troops. The Turkish Minister at Vienna had demanded explanations relative to the concentration of such a large force on the frontiers. Count Buol received him with the greatest kindness, assured him that Austria had not the most distant idea of making a demonstration against the Porte, and added that the measure was simply one of precaution.

THE FLEETS.

A letter from Beicos Bay, dated Feb. 1, describes the fleets as in beautiful order, and the words "prepare for action" would be as cordially welcomed as a card for a ball. All the vessels double-shot their guns at sunset, and Moorsom's shells lie conveniently behind them. Attached to the fleet is a Pole, an engineer, a long time imprisoned at Sebastopol; and the Banshee had brought Mr. Elcock, chief engineer of the Amphion, for many years in the Russian service, and a gentleman who knows Sebastopol as well as he does his own cabin. The Niger is at Therapia; the Retribution at the Golden Horn, with the Turkish and French vessels, embarking troops and ammunition for Batoum. Our steam-fleet is to convoy the Turkish, Sir E. Lyons command. His flag is in the Agamemnon, a splendid vessel, and heavily armed. On the 26th the Samsori and Firebrand left for the Black Sea; and on the following day two French steam frigates followed, their orders being to watch Sebastopol and the Russian ports. This squadron is under the command of Vice Admiral Tinnan.

In a letter addressed by the admirals to the commandant of the port of Sebastopol, a term of fifteen days was fixed for Russian vessels of war to return to their harbours in the Black Sea.

The *Journal de Constantinople* officially announces, that on the 6th of January a squadron, consisting of five Russian steam-frigates, attacked and bombarded for several hours the fort of Shefkati, or St. Nicholas, which was captured by the Turks at the commencement of the war. These vessels were ultimately beaten off, one of them being considerably damaged; but the occurrence itself demonstrates that the Russians had in no degree abandoned their intention of attacking the Turkish coasts. In this instance it is difficult to conceive how they evaded the allied fleets. Admirals Dundas and Hamelin weighed anchor from the Bosphorus on the 4th of January with a fair wind, and on the 6th they were at the heights of Sinope. Another report was circulated at Constantinople, to the effect that since the fleets withdrew from Sinope, the Russian squadron had again come out of the harbours of the Crimea.

The steamer *Fury*, which had been sent to Odessa with despatches, had returned to Constantinople on the 25th ult., without having accomplished the object of her mission, in consequence of the ice which had prevented her from entering the port.

CHANGE OF MINISTRY AND DETECTED PLOT.

The news from Constantinople is varied in subject this week; a change of Ministry and a detected conspiracy. Respecting the change of Ministers, the information is limited to the bare facts, that the Seraskier is dismissed, that Riza Pasha has succeeded him, and Achmet Pasha has succeeded Riza as Minister of Marine. The change was not thought to involve any political consequences. The conspiracy involves a great many persons—more than one notoriously Russian agent: of the latter, Baron Eilsner is in custody. A Greek priest, Athanasius, was arrested at Widdin. Even "eminent persons at the Court of Athens," and M. Metaxa, Greek Minister at Constantinople, are said to be implicated. About forty persons had been arrested, amongst them are Baron Eilsner, a Russian officer, Emmanuel Bollanos, of Chiriacos, and Dimifrios Constandinos, father and son. The Turkish police, directed by Aarif Pasha, discovered the accomplices in this conspiracy, which extended to Bulgaria, Janina, Salonica, Smyrna, and the principal islands in the Archipelago. A corps of engineers is employed in marking out a camp at Bouyouk-Tekemelesche, near the Sea of Marmora, for 40,000 men. This place is six miles from Constantinople.

THE WAR ON THE DANUBE.

A letter from Krajowa of the 4th states that the expedition against Kalafat, which was put in motion on the 28th ult., was countermanded because the Ottoman troops were menacing the more easterly points on the left bank of the river. The Russians have now 41,000 foot, 12,000 horse, 3,000 sappers and miners, and 120 guns in Little Wallachia. The reserve at Slatina is to amount to 15,000 men. General Schilders is to have the whole and sole direction of the projected passage of the Danube, "but there will be hardly any change in the supreme command of the troops." Both sides were anxiously expecting and prepping for a decisive attack. General Gortschakoff, while speaking to a person attached to the Austrian Embassy, who had remarked that Ismail Pasha was strongly entrenched at Kalafat, and that he had the advantage of position, replied, "We have received the most imperative orders to drive the Turks out of Kalafat. I know that it must cost me a number of men, but I will succeed at any price." "It is a difficult undertaking," replied the other, "for, although you wish to capture Kalafat at any price, the Turks will preserve it at any price."

Considerable reinforcements were on march from Sophia for Kalafat. Omar Pasha was entirely restored to health. A Wallachian General, two or three American officers, and several French and Swedish officers, had arrived at head-quarters to take service in the Ottoman army.

Omar Pasha has divided his army into three independent corps. The first corps—about 45,000 strong—forming the left wing of the army, is commanded by Ismail Pasha, whose head-quarters are at Florentin, and where he is watched by the Russian General Bellegarde; his flanks rest on Widdin and Orsova. The second corps—about 48,000 strong—forms the centre of the army, has its head-quarters in Sistova, and stands under the command of Mustapha Pasha, so well known for his talents as a commander. The third corps—the right wing of the army—with head-quarters in Karassu, at the wall of Trajan, is commanded by the able Halil Pasha; it is said to be now about 46,000 strong. From a detailed statement of the Russian forces in the Principalities and in Bessarabia, in *La Presse*, we learn that the Russian army amounts at the present moment, in the Principalities and in Bessarabia, to a total force of 156,328 men and 520 cannon, of which 72 are of large calibre. General Schilders' official report to the Russian Embassy is, that the army "is in a pitiable condition; 35,000 men are missing of the original corps which crossed the Pruth in July last."

The new Russian newspaper, published at Bucharest, entitled the *Wallachian Monitor*, contains a general order by Prince Gortschakoff, enacting: That all the male population from 18 to 40 years of age, married or unmarried, and of whatever profession, may be required by the generals, colonels, or *chefs de corps*, to render compulsory service (*robot*) to the Russian army. That horses, oxen, and all other draught cattle, besides waggons, may in like manner be taken for the same use; and lastly, that all the barks, boats, and barges found on the Danube may be taken at any moment for the Russian service. This ordinance applies to all Wallachian subjects, and any person attempting to evade it will be brought before a court-martial.

Letters from the Danubian provinces announce that the atrocious measures recently adopted by the

Russian generals had produced general exasperation. The peasants in the district of Mehedenz had risen against an order commanding men, women, and even young girls, to be employed in the severest labour. The villagers at Isovila having refused to obey, the general sent a detachment of 200 Cossacks to chastise them. The unfortunate people defended themselves courageously, but, having no arms, they were overpowered and nearly all murdered. A few who escaped gave the alarm in the neighbourhood. All the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, to the number of 3,000, fell upon the Cossacks during the night, and exterminated them. The Russian general was preparing to avenge his loss.

By letters of the 24th of last month from Varna, we learn that the cholera is raging there, and has already carried off some of the French, English, and Italian visitors.

Ismail Pasha has been appointed Commander-in-chief of the army of Anatolia. He is reported to be an able and meritorious officer. It is stated that Kurschid Pasha, General Guyon *chef de l'état major* of the Asiatic army, has already done wonders in reorganising a broken and dispirited army, and is said to have resumed the offensive against the Russians in Asia, with 30,000 foot, 5,000 horse, and 140 guns.

In Serbia, the hand of Russia is clearly seen in the opposition of the Senate to the promulgation of the firmans guaranteeing the rights of the Servians. With the consent of the Commissary of the Porte, the firmans were not read at Belgrade on the 3rd.

Advices from St. Petersburg report the Emperor as very unwell—it was said with erysipelas; but whether the indisposition was real or feigned, was not certain, for, for some ten days past he had not allowed himself to be seen.

According to the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, General Prim had had an interview with the Emperor's cousin, Prince Napoleon (Jerome), who, in case of war, is likely to receive a command on the Danube. The Spanish General's praises of Omar Pasha were of the warmest, as also of the Turkish soldiers. But he, as well as others, remarked on the want of good regimental officers. General Prim's opinion of the Russian soldiers was not so low as has been expressed by others; but as respects Prince Gortschakoff, he is surprised that the Emperor of Russia has not removed him long ago.

FRANCE.

LETTER FROM THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON TO THE CZAR.

The rumour that the Emperor Napoleon has made a last appeal to the Czar in an autograph letter, turns out to be true. The letter has been published, and the following are its principal points. After a *resumé* of the Eastern question, Louis Napoleon says:—

"If your Majesty desires as much I do a pacific conclusion, what more simple than to declare that an armistice shall be signed to-day; that things shall take their diplomatic course; that all hostility shall cease; that all the belligerent forces shall withdraw from the places where motives of war have called them? Thus the Russian troops shall abandon the Principalities, and our squadrons the Black Sea. As your Majesty prefers to negotiate directly with Turkey, you can nominate an ambassador who could negotiate with a plenipotentiary of the Sultan a convention to be submitted to the Conference of the Four Powers. If your Majesty adopts this plan, upon which the Queen of England and myself are perfectly agreed, tranquillity will be re-established, and the world satisfied. There is nothing in this plan unworthy of your Majesty—nothing that can hurt your honourable feelings. But if, from a motive difficult to understand, your Majesty should refuse, then France and England will be obliged to leave to the chances of arms and the hazards of war that which might be decided at once by reason and justice."

It will be at least six days before we can have the answer of the Emperor Nicholas to the letter of the Emperor of the French; but already the speculators on the Paris Bourse seem to have made up their minds that he must yield, and the rise in the French funds has consequently made further progress. Despatches have been received in Paris from M. de Bourqueney and General de Castelbajac, both of whom state that the chances of peace have, upon the whole, improved. M. de Castelbajac has written that the *entourage* of the Czar shows a better disposition, and speaks of concessions as not impossible.

The *Moniteur* has published the series of French diplomatic despatches relative to the Eastern question. They do not differ materially from those published by our own Government, but seem to confirm the impression that the French Government have taken the initiative throughout. In these despatches the massacre at Sinope is described as a "*coup hardi et heureux*," struck, not at Turkey alone, but at her allies. On January 15, M. Drouyn de Lhuys wrote to the Marquis de Moustier, ambassador at Berlin, that the Emperor confidently hoped the King of Prussia would "resolutely seize the present opportunity to bring his sentiments into harmony with the interests of his policy, and join with his allies in placing the integrity of Turkey, as well as the future prospects of its Christian population, under the safeguard of the Great Powers." Without some compensation of this kind given to the Christians, the French minister says he can understand that tender consciences might be hurt at the support given to the Ottoman empire, but the pretensions of Russia to be regarded alone as the protector of those Christians, prove either her intention to destroy the Ottoman empire, or that she acts in a sectarian spirit which other communions cannot understand or encourage. The last despatch of the series is one from M. Drouyn de Lhuys to General Castelbajac, replying in firm and explicit terms to the Nesselrode pleading, reminding Russia that she began the war by invading the principalities, and assuring her that she may now put an end to it by evacuating them.

The news is still of war preparations, said to be on a gigantic scale. Enormous orders for projectiles have

been sent to the iron-founders of St. Quintin and those of the Ardennes. A new kind of ball is made at Lorient in large quantities; it is called "*boulet asphyxiant*;" is hollow, and filled with a composition that on exploding stifles those among whom it falls. The Atlantic fleet, under Admiral Bruat, sailed from Brest on the 6th instant. It is thought that this fleet will take the first portion of the expeditionary army from Algeria.

The result of Prince Napoleon's visit to Brussels is startling, if we may credit the Paris correspondent of the *Times*. At an interview between Prince Napoleon and the King of the Belgians, the former is said to have hinted, that "as hostilities were probable between France and Russia, the Emperor Napoleon wished to be assured of the attitude which Belgium would assume in such an emergency; that his Belgian Majesty had at his disposal 100,000 troops, and in the event (improbable though it be) of Prussia taking part with Russia, 50,000 Belgians might be sent to the Prussian frontier; that the Emperor of the French did not wish any force to be sent to the French frontier, but that the force in question should guard the Prussian. To that proposition it is added that the King assented. With respect to the fortresses along the French line, the wish was expressed that they should in part be reduced; and to that also his Majesty assented. The Prince suggested, that, as King Leopold was a constitutional King, it would be necessary to have the sanction of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the arrangement. The Minister was sent for, and his approval was given to the proposed arrangement. Such, it is stated, on very fair authority, was the object of Prince Napoleon's mission, as also its result."

Prince Napoleon is nominated Grand-Cross of the Order of Leopold, and the officers who accompanied him are nominated to inferior grades in the same order. The decree relative to the Prince says that the order is conferred on him as a public mark of his Majesty's friendly sentiments.

ITALY.

The *Indipendenza Belge* publishes a letter, dated Florence, Feb. 5, containing some interesting statements and speculations:—"Baron Brenier, the French Envoy, after a residence of several days in this capital, has left for Rome and Naples. His journey through Tuscany has greatly embarrassed the Tuscan Government. M. Brenier, it appears, is instructed not only to sound public opinion in Italy, but also to call on the Government to state what part they intend to take in the event of an European war. The Piedmontese Government frankly declared that it would side with England and France, but Tuscany hesitated to give a reply, on account of her intimacy with Austria. M. Brenier was also directed to claim a sum of 3,000,000*fr.* from Tuscany, in payment of the valuable furniture which the sister of Napoleon, Eliza Baciocchi, Princess of Lucca and Piombino, abandoned in her palace in 1814. The Tuscan Government was staggered by the demand, the more so as its finances are not in a flourishing condition. The residence in Tuscany of Lord Minto, who was mixed up with the political affairs of the peninsula in 1847, is another subject of uneasiness to the Italian Governments. Several Sicilians, who had inhabited Tuscany since 1840, have lately been expelled at the instigation of the Neapolitan Envoy, for having paid his lordship a visit of mere politeness. These rigorous proceedings prove the alarm prevailing everywhere on the approach of a general war. The symptoms which preceded the revolution of 1848 are visible in all the Italian States. Ferdinand is a decided partisan of Russia, but the fear of a revolution, the progress made of late by the Muratist party, and his persuasion that England is anxious to seize on Sicily, have induced him to show a disposition to espouse the cause of the Western Powers. King Ferdinand, nevertheless, would wish to form a league of the Italian States, who, like the German States, would proclaim their neutrality, and, with that view, he recently sent a confidential agent to Turin, giving the Sardinian Cabinet to understand, that he was disposed to make concessions to his subjects. At Rome the Eastern question also preoccupies the public mind. The Sacred College is divided on the subject. The Pope and several cardinals apprehend the aggrandisement of Russia, because it would lead to the triumph of the Greek Church, whose main object is to destroy Catholicism; but Cardinal Antonelli, the Secretary of State, and the cardinals who particularly consider the temporal power of the Holy See, would prefer the success of the Russians. The situation of the finances is another cause of division in the Court of Rome. The Consulta of State, wounded by the refusal to accede to their demand, have resolved to tender their resignations to his Holiness."

A recent number of *Italia e Popolo* says, respecting the state of Milan:—"There is a fresh state of excitement here; for a whole week there have been continued arrests, and a panic fear again possesses the mind of the inhabitants. A silence is, however, preserved, bringing to mind the carnival of 1848. Yesterday search was made in the house of an advocate. The borders are overrun with patrols, domiciliary visits augment, suspicions generate suspicions, and people seem not to know what to do or what to think. Marshal Radetzky has issued a proclamation to the effect that, all persons detected in spreading false reports, "for the purpose of exciting the people with all kinds of vague ideas," shall be tried by court-martial."

The subject of the exemption of religious persons from military service has long occupied the attention of the Piedmontese Parliament. On the 3rd instant, the Senate adopted the Recruiting Bill, by 38 to 12; one of the clauses of which fixes the number of students for the service of religion who shall be entitled to exemption from the conscription in the proportion of 1 in 20,000 of the population, instead of leaving the

number to be determined yearly by the Minister of Grace and Justice.

On the 5th the Duchess of Genoa was safely delivered of a Prince, who received the names of Thomas Albert Victor.

Declarations have been exchanged between Cardinal Antonelli and Mr. Scarlett to the effect, that henceforth complete reciprocity of trade, on "the most favoured nation" principle, shall subsist between Great Britain and the Papal States.

AUSTRALIA.

From Adelaide, there is intelligence to December 3. In the river Murray, 1,400 miles from the sea-mouth, the first cargo of wool was shipped, on board the "Lady Augusta" steamer, on the 2nd of last October. This is considered "an event" by the squatters. A company was being formed to establish lines of steamers on the river. The harvest was about to commence, and everything promised such abundance, that the province would be able to supply, out of its surplus produce, as much flour and grain as Victoria was likely to require for the next six months. In politics there was nothing worth recording. The long-deferred railway between Adelaide and the Port was again mooted. The addition to the population during last year is estimated at nearly 8,000 souls.

On three of the principal gold-fields of Victoria, a diminution in the quantity raised can be noted, even compared with the returns of the same month last year, when the population on them was less in number. "Deep-sinking" in distinction to "surfacing," was chiefly in favour at Ballarat and Bendigo, the latter being left to "new chums." The holes sunk are about 140 feet deep, and in some instances the success has been fabulous. The celebrated "jewellers' shops" belonged to this class; but here again fortune proved herself as capricious as ever; a few feet to the right or left made all the difference between a return of pounds, or even hundred weights, and a total blank. There is one person now in Sydney who sank a hole 127 feet deep, lost heart when he came to that depth, and abandoned it; a party of Germans working in the next claim took possession of the hole, dug only three feet deeper, and came down on a deposit among the largest ever discovered. The consequence to the unlucky first sinker was a nervous fever, from which he was only just recovering, and a vexation that will probably haunt him for life. An aristocracy is growing up among the diggers that will not condescend to wash buckets of earth in a tin dish for a few pennyweights of dust, as in the primitive days of the pursuit. The total yield of the Victoria fields in October last year was 365,172oz. For 1853 it was 156,166oz., being a decrease of 209,006oz. Ballarat is the only improving gold-field; on all the others the produce has diminished. The darkest side of the report from the gold regions is the prevalence of disease, the frequent robberies, violent assaults, and brutal drunkenness. The return of the gold from New South Wales for the month of October was only 5,995 ounces—a miserable figure compared with the 100,000 ounces raised in the same period at Mount Alexander. Business was generally stated to be in a sound state, though in some articles there was a too abundant supply for the market; in others the stocks were short and prices are maintained. Complaints were made by old established houses that young and weak firms had entered too largely into speculation in the colony, and, being compelled to realize at any sacrifice, had forced their goods on the market, or sold them at auction, more frequently than established houses approved. The "wretched roads" was the constant burden of complaint in all intelligence from the interior.

INDIA AND CHINA.

Captain Latter, the deputy commissioner at Prome, was assassinated while asleep on the 9th of January by some Burmese, who entered his quarters disguised as females, and who were allowed to enter by the sentry on duty in consequence of his having received orders to permit such parties (spies) to pass unquestioned. So quietly did the assassins effect their object, that it was not until the next morning that his dead body was found in his bed, pierced with three dagger wounds, one in the neck, one in the right side, and one in the heart. His death must have been instantaneous. A female's scarf was thrown over his corpse (an indignity according to Burman estimation) and the murderers effected their escape so noiselessly that the precise time they left Captain Latter's quarters is unknown. It is said that the Ava Government has instigated the perpetration of this tragedy, but nothing definite on the point has yet come to light. The Burmese are said to be in great force near Sittang, and that there is strong reason to expect a rise of the people of the Martaban province so soon as the paddy crop is gathered in.

The Indian steamer *Medusa* had been lost between Prome and Meaday.

The Governor-General arrived at Rangoon on the 14th of December, and left it again for Prome on the 17th.

Accounts from Madras represent the augmenting distress of the riots in the northern districts of that presidency. The famine which prevailed owing to the want of rain was daily assuming a more alarming aspect, and in some of the districts disturbances had taken place and the grain sellers been plundered. Government, it is said, had ordered that the inhabitants shall be employed as largely as possible in the repairing of roads and tanks, and had also repealed the import duty on rice.

The late Rajah of Nagpore died childless, and our government having all along refused to allow him to adopt an heir, the valley of Berar reverts to the Honourable Company. The territory thus acquired is about the size of the Punjab, and its revenue about

fifty lacs of rupees annually, while its population exceeds four and a half millions.

The gentlemen who are surveying the line for the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company are rapidly completing their work, and it is said that the result is much more favorable than was anticipated, and that it will not be very difficult to unite Bombay and Surat.

The Nizam's dominions are in a worse state than ever, the Government is utterly powerless, and the country is covered with bands of predatory Rohilla horse, sacking the villages, abusing the women, and fighting with the Arabs, wherever they find them.

The Chinese rebellion appears, by all accounts, to make steady progress. The Emperor is said to have directed the governors of provinces to remit the imperial revenues to Moung-den, the old Tartar seat in Manchuria, instead of forwarding them to Peking, as heretofore. According to the *Pekin Gazette*, the insurgents have nearly invested the city, being complete masters of Teent-sin, distant only eighty miles from the capital, and situated at the junction of the Grand Canal with the river Peiho. The rapidity of the insurgents' progress through the province of Peh-che-Lee appears to have struck terror into the breasts of the Imperialists. Driven to desperation, the latter are reported to have gained some advantages in one or more regular pitched battles at Tsing-hae and Yang-lew-ting. The affair at the latter place is stated to have taken place on the 1st Nov., and many hundreds were killed on both sides. As the winter season had set in, the insurgents were expected to make a final grasp at the object of their ambition, the imperial city. It was rumoured that two of the Emperor's uncles were at the head of 40,000 Tartars, on their way to meet the rebel army. At Peking the strictest measures were being taken in the way of searching for insurgent emissaries, who were numerous in the capital, and no doubt the insurgents will meet with powerful resistance before reaching the capital, and the severe cold season may retard their advance. At Canton and Shanghai it was believed, that Peking had succumbed, and that the once-dreaded Tartar Emperor had sought safety in flight.

Shanghai, on the 17th Dec., remained in the hands of the insurgents. Repeated but ineffectual attempts had been made by the imperialists to re-capture the city, and some hard fighting had taken place; but the retaking of the city is an event apparently as far distant now as it was many weeks since. A large part of the city had been destroyed by fire. At Amoy all was quiet, but numerous executions continued to take place.

At Canton all remained quiet, but the news from the north produced an uneasy feeling, as it was generally supposed there is a strong party in the city in favour of Tac-ping-wang. It was feared if Peking fell there would be a serious outbreak. Trade was more buoyant and promising, but political causes might create serious interruption for a time.

At Ningpo there had been disturbances, and an extensive conspiracy of the Triad Society discovered. Several executions had taken place which had the effect of quelling the outbreak. Considerable alarm was felt, but all was quiet at the last date, the 13th inst.

The pirates are in formidable force all along the Chinese coast, from Chusan down to Hongkong.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Duke of Wellington arrived at Rome on the 23rd ult.

Since the 11th of August last, there were 10,915 attacks of cholera at Stockholm, and 2,872 deaths.

The fluctuations on the Bourse at Paris have caused one defaulter to shoot himself, and another has disappeared.

The Duke of Northumberland gave a grand dinner on the 26th at Serny's Hotel, Rome, to Cardinal Antonelli.

Professor Longfellow has resigned the professorship of *Belles Lettres* and Modern Languages in Harvard College, United States.

Patrick O'Donohue, one of the Irish rebels who escaped from Australia and took refuge in the United States, is dead.

General Joseph Concha has escaped from Barcelona. A democratic club has, it is said, been discovered at Madrid, and fourteen persons have been arrested *flagrante delicto*.

The young Princess of Asturias, the only surviving child of the Queen of Spain, is dangerously ill. Her death would once more open the succession to the Duchess of Montpensier.

Madame Jenny Lind Goldschmidt has changed her determination. Instead of visiting England this spring, as she intended, she will remain at Dresden, and await the issue of the wars.

The steam ship "Himalaya," which recently took out the Indian mail from Southampton, arrived on the 2nd inst. at Alexandria, being 61 hours from Malta; the shortest passage hitherto made being 69 hours.

A resolution of the Dutch War-office orders the raising of four corps of 1,000 men each—a step which indicates the intention of Holland to place her army on a war footing.

The Mormons at Salt Lake City progress rapidly: "saints" arrive from all parts of the world, food is abundant, and the "temple" is rising. Some missionaries who went to China have returned unsuccessful: they ascribe their failure to their ignorance of the Chinese language.

It is intended that a number of steamers on the model of the "Paris et Londres" shall be built for carrying on the direct communication between Paris and London. The "Paris et Londres" was not the first steamer that ascended the Seine to Paris from the sea: a short time back the steam-vessel "La Sole" arrived from Bordeaux, and gained a premium which had been offered for the feat.

A new religious sect has sprung up in Sweden,

called the Contemplators, because they believe that in meditating incessantly on the essence and qualities of God, which they call contemplating God, they attain the perfection of saints. They think that everybody who does not join them will certainly be damned. Not long ago a peasant, named John Olsson, of the village of Otteslaett, in the district of Teguely, province of Gothenburg, cut the throats of his two children, one aged a year, the other eighteen months, to preserve them, as he said, from eternal condemnation.

Intelligence from the United States is meagre. The Gadsden treaty with Mexico had been again discussed in the Cabinet, but no decision arrived at as to whether it should be submitted to the senate or not. Intelligence had reached San Francisco that Walker and his Fillibustereos had been relieved by the reinforcements that had sailed from California to aid him and his band. After a speech from Senator Douglas, in the senate, on the 30th ult., the Nebraska bill was adjourned. Another destructive fire had occurred at New York on the 30th ult. The scene of the catastrophe was in Pearl-street, and property to the amount of 200,000 dollars destroyed.

There appears to be a faint chance of an approach to free-trade in Portugal. The Commercial Association of Oporto have made a report, at the request of the Portuguese Government, regarding the present condition of the country, and the steps that should be adopted for the development of its resources. It embraces doctrines of the most complete commercial freedom, and urges the plantation of extended vineyards to meet the increased consumption that might be anticipated if those principles were carried out. It likewise refers to the public works of all descriptions that should be undertaken, and characterises the system hitherto pursued as an extraordinary combination of errors, which have reduced the kingdom to its present state of inactivity and backwardness.

THE DUTY ON FIRE INSURANCE.

In the list of burdensome imposts which still call for the reforming energy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the duty on Fire Insurance. Although in the present aspect of foreign affairs there is little hope of obtaining the remission of any tax, this is one of the first which ought to be brought under the notice of the House of Commons. We are glad to find that the British Empire Mutual Fire Assurance Society, which took the lead in obtaining the exemption of all mutual offices, not merely from payment for registration, but even from registration at all, is turning its attention to this unjust tax. From a petition to Parliament adopted by them we learn that the tax on Fire Insurance being three shillings per cent. per annum, with an additional duty of one shilling on the first year, for a policy, while common assurances are effected at the premium of one shilling and sixpence per cent., a duty of from two to three hundred per cent. upon the price, becomes, to a large extent, prohibitory. Besides being exceedingly unfair and oppressive, the impost is most impolitic, seeing that it discourages habits of prudence and forethought. The returns of the London fire brigade show that even in London the neglect of Fire Assurance prevails to the extent of more than one half of the property, and there is reason to believe the proportion to be much greater in the provinces. There can be no doubt that the enormous duty is a great obstacle to the extension of Fire Insurance, and is the frequent occasion of sudden ruin and pauperism. We shall rejoice to hear of its total repeal.

The coinage at the London Mint last year amounted in value to no less than £12,663,000; in France the coinage of the year amounted to £14,101,120; and in the United States the amount was £11,961,702; so that the three principal mints of the world issued in that one year coin of the value of £38,725,831. The *Economist* justly remarks that such an immense amount of coinage, still leaving complaints of insufficient currency to conduct the domestic transactions of these three great countries, points to an increase of trade and activity in productive industry without any parallel in the history of the world.

The council of the Society of Arts have determined to hold an Educational Exhibition in the month of June of the present year, when the Conference of the representatives of its various affiliated institutions, now amounting to 335 in number, will take place. The Council have already sought the aid of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and for the Colonies, with the view of obtaining models of the schools of primary instruction approved by the Departments of Public Instruction in France, Prussia, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Canada, and at Washington, New York, and in the State of Massachusetts, together with specimens of every article authorised to be used in the different classes of schools recognised by each State, as well as of the writing, drawing, needlework, printed examination papers, &c. The Council have also asked to be furnished with copies of the Codes of Public Instruction in force in each country, and they promise to publish at the time of the Exhibition an English synopsis of the whole. Letters have also been addressed to the large educational bodies and Government departments dealing with the subject in this country, claiming their co-operation in the undertaking.

Postscript.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

In the House of Lords last night, there was a set debate on the Eastern question, which commenced soon after five o'clock and lasted till one in the morning. It was commenced by the Earl of CLANRICARDE, who in moving that further papers respecting the cessation of diplomatic relations with the Court of St. Petersburg, and the war which appears imminent, be laid before the House, commented at considerable length upon the conduct of the Government as narrated by the blue books lately issued respecting the Turkish question. Dissecting the policy therein developed, and enforcing his conclusion by a copious citation of extracts and details, he accused the Ministry of procrastination and credulity, of infirmity of purpose, and a melancholy want of decision.

The Earl of CLARENDON replied to Lord Clanricarde with great spirit and at considerable length. With respect to Prince Menschikoff's mission, he was bound to repeat that the Government had acted as it had done because it could not disbelieve the solemn assurances put forth by Russia; and, so far from there having been dissensions on this point between France and England, the two Governments had acted on the occasion in perfect harmony. He agreed with all that had been said in praise of Lord Stratford, whose ability and devotion it was impossible to overrate. Lord Clanricarde insisted on knowing whether we were at peace or war—

We are not at war, because war is not declared. We are not strictly at peace with Russia, because—(Some laughter.) My noble friend laughs, but he must know it is correct to say that we are not at war with Russia, though diplomatic relations have been suspended. He must remember that the initiative of the interruption of diplomatic relations was taken by Russia, and those relations are declared by Russia to be simply suspended. Therefore I say we are in that intermediate state, when our desire for peace is just as sincere as ever, though I must say our expectations of maintaining it are dwindling away, and drifting towards war. Still, as my noble friend at the head of the Government said the other evening, so long as war is not declared, the maintenance of peace is not despaired of. It has been stated in this house that certain propositions had been made by Russia by way of reply to those contained in the collective note of the ambassadors; but it seems to me as easy to make two parallel lines meet as those two sets of propositions, and therefore I consider the negotiations to be at an end. (Hear, hear.) But it does not follow that a state of war is instantly to ensue; and I am sure your lordships would not expect me, in the exercise of my discretion and responsibility, to state exactly the steps which Her Majesty's Government may think necessary to take in the present state of affairs, because you must remember that we are not acting alone, but in conjunction with our allies. I think it sufficient therefore at present to say, in answer to the doubts thrown on our proceedings by my noble friend, that every preparation is being made with all the vigour and with all the rapidity which the existing state of things allows. (Hear, hear.) More than that your lordships will not expect me to say.

The noble lord then entered at length into the line of policy pursued by the English and French Governments after the massacre at Sinope, as well as into the circumstances which had transpired respecting Count Orloff's mission to Austria and Prussia, both which Governments had, he believed, returned an answer becoming independent nations.

England and France, it is true, my lords, are competent to make war against Russia, but with Prussia and Austria it now rests either to prevent war, or if that be impossible, to render it of short duration, and never were obligations to duty more consonant to the general wish. A noble and a generous course will also bring safety to their home, for revolution will not rear its head in a country which is faithfully performing its duty. (Hear, hear.) The answer that Austria made to the last mission from Russia was that, as long as Russia maintained a defensive attitude, Austria would retain an expecting one; but now that Russia appeared determined to go further, Austria would send a body of troops to protect its frontier. At the same time that, to reassure the Turks upon the character of the operation, she declared that, if the intervention of her troops became necessary, it would be to maintain the *status quo*. I must add, my lords, that the answer of Prussia was to the same effect, so that of Count Orloff did not think it worth his while to go to Berlin.

He also praised the admirable discretion displayed by the people of this country during a period of great excitement, and concluded by declaring that if war were forced on us, England would respond to the call to arms in a manner worthy of her ancient renown as well as of the fame of those allies who would now, for the first time, be ranged in battle by her side.

The Earl of ELLESMERE hoped that the diplomatic agents would not be allowed, as in times past, to cripple the energies of officers entrusted with the management of the military and naval forces.

The Earl of MALMESBURY could not understand why some of the papers now produced had not been granted when he asked for them last year. Even since they awoke to a full sense of the Czar's ambition, the conduct of ministers, he argued, had been characterised by much weakness and credulity.

After a few words from Lord GLENELG, Earl GREY said he believed that the radical fault of the ministerial

policy consisted in their having allowed themselves to be dragged into the quarrel at all. There were precedents and pleas for a far more pacific course than that which they had pursued. We were aiming to defend a phantasm; for such had the independence of Turkey been ever since the day when Russian aid was invoked, in order to protect the Porte from her rebellious vassal. The Ottoman empire was a corpse which could never be resuscitated. By the promise to aid Turkey, war, which might have been at least postponed, was rendered immediate and inevitable, and the consequences, actual as regarded Turkey and Russia, prospective with respect to the rest of Europe, were most calamitous.

The Duke of ARGYLL specially defended the Vienna Note and Lord Aberdeen.

The Earl of DERBY argued that more might have been done to preserve peace, but it required doing in a different way from that adopted by the administration. In April last year the Prime Minister had assured them that no disturbance was apprehended on the side of Turkey. That assurance was hazarded on the faith of Russian assertions; and the noble lord compared various dates and documents to show how rashly it had been given and how completely it was belied by the event. The conduct of Russia, he remarked, could not be defended; but it must be confessed that it was always consistent. Pursuing his analysis of the official papers, he quoted the tenor of the dispatch transmitted to St. Petersburg at the time when Russia threatened a speedy occupation of the Principalities, which, as he urged with much emphasis, so far from expressing rebuke or opposition, assumed a more cordial and encouraging tone than usual. This he considered the turning point of the dispute, leading, as it was managed, to all the deplorable results that had followed or were now apprehended. Disagreeing, however, with the opinion of Lord Grey, that Turkey should be abandoned, he was willing to waive all minor questions and controversies, for the sake of supporting the Government in prosecuting a just and righteous war.

The Earl of ARDEN contrasted the speeches made by his opponents, charged as they were with allegations that might provoke a vote of censure, if not warrant an impeachment, with the vague motion for some papers which was their ineffectual conclusion. He reiterated his belief that war was not yet inevitable, and justified the measures which he had taken to avert it, even though they ran counter to the generous sympathies of the country. Following this justification through many details of the recent proceedings, he submitted that the public might rest satisfied with the assurance that every requisite preparation was making for war, though some sanguine spirits, of whom he counted himself as one, might believe peace not quite beyond hope.

After a brief reply from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE, their lordships adjourned.

Mr. LAYARD in the House of Commons gave notice of his intention to call attention to the relations of this country with Turkey, on Friday next, and Lord JOHN RUSSELL postponed his reply to some questions put by Mr. BAILLIE, to that day.

Mr. LOCKE KING moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of succession to real property in cases of intestacy. Mr. HADFIELD seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. BRIGHT. Lord J. RUSSELL offered no opposition to the introduction of the bill, reserving to himself the right at a future stage of expressing his opinion on the subject. Leave was then given.

Mr. J. PHILLIMORE moved for leave to bring in a bill for the appointment of public prosecutors. Mr. HUME supported the motion. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the Government, without approving the scheme of Mr. Phillimore, thought that the bill ought to be brought in, in order that the subject might undergo discussion, adding that the matter had been under their serious consideration, and that they considered the principle of public prosecutors ought to be adopted. The objects of the measure were approved and supported by various members, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

Mr. OLIVEIRA moved a resolution, that the present rate of duty charged upon foreign and colonial wines is "excessive and impolitic, and that the same be reduced to 1s. per gallon. After an explanatory speech, Mr. Oliveira took the House rather by surprise by stating that, considering the position of the country, it would not be prudent on his part to divide the House or raise a discussion which would tend to embarrass the Government; and he, therefore, should not press his resolution, which accordingly he withdrew.

Colonel BLAIR then called the attention of the House to the present state of the guano market in this country, the demand of which for that valuable article could not be adequately supplied, owing to the practical monopoly exercised, in opposition to its own interest, by the Peruvian Government. After speeches from Mr. CARDWELL and Sir JAMES GRAHAM, who advised that fresh sources of supply should be sought for—the motion was agreed to.

Mr. BUTT proceeded to nominate his proposed committee of fifteen to investigate the charges against Irish members. The process was interrupted by fresh suggestions for diminishing the number to be appointed, and finally left incomplete, the hon. member appearing inclined to make a further concession, and reduce his committee to eleven. The nomination will be resumed to-day.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past nine.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The *Patrie* says, that an unfavourable answer has already arrived from the Czar.

There is continual skirmishing along the whole line of the Danube, especially at Oltenitz, Guirgevo, and Kalafat. General Laprandi has been made the com-

mander of the troops in Lesser Wallachia, in the room of General Aurep. It seems likely that the attack on Kalafat has been postponed to March. Great irresolution would appear to prevail in the Russian councils. The port of Sebastopol is closed in with ice,—an event unknown within present recollection.

St. Petersburg advices of the 7th of Feb. state that the deputation from the Society of Friends had arrived, and had an interview with Count Nesselrode.

(From the Second Edition of the *Times*.)

It is stated in Paris that a telegraphic message was received there on Monday night from General Castelbajac, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburg, with these words only:—"I return with a refusal." This is confirmed by the semi-official *Patrie*, which is assured that the reply of the Czar "has disappointed the hopes of the friends of peace."

THE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

Yesterday London beheld a spectacle that has not been witnessed in its streets for well-nigh forty years; of which few who looked on could recollect a parallel. A regiment of Guards marched, amid the cheers of the people, along the Strand on their way to embark for active service on the continent. Such an event has not occurred since the year of Waterloo. As at present decided on, the Guards will embark first, then the regiments of the line in England and Scotland, and lastly, those in Ireland. In general terms, it may be considered as certain that the whole of the first division, except, perhaps, the regiments from Ireland, will have set out by the 1st of March, and that the latter will have embarked before the 10th. Government has determined that the effective strength of each regiment or battalion sent out shall be made up of 850 bayonets, and soldiers from other corps have been permitted to volunteer.

The announcement of the intention to send out a cavalry force turns out, for the present at least, to be premature, no decision having as yet been come to upon that point. There will, however, be five squadrons of picked men, in all 500 sabres, included in the division, probably for staff and escort service. Taking the force now under orders for the Mediterranean, a brigade already formed there, and the regiments next for service, the British contingent for the defence of Turkey will amount to 20,000 men, with 40 guns, admirably horsed and provided with a full proportion of ammunition waggons. The batteries of the Royal Artillery under orders for the Mediterranean are to be made up to the number of 180, being more than double their strength on the peace establishment. Of this auxiliary army, Lord Raglan takes the chief command, but it is not expected that he will leave England for that purpose until the beginning of next month. 230 picked men in each battalion are to be armed with Minie rifles. Brigade commands, instead of being given to antiquated general officers, will be conferred on young colonels, who will have the temporary rank of brigadiers. Thus, the brigade of Guards will be under the command of Colonel Bentinck. Colonel Eyre, who so greatly distinguished himself at the Cape, will, it is stated, act as Adjutant-General.

It is rumoured at Windsor, that the brigade of Guards, at the express desire of the Emperor Napoleon, will proceed first to Paris, where they will join the Imperial Guards intended for service in Turkey, and that a grand banquet in honour of the occasion will be given by the Emperor in the capital of France. The number of ships tendered to the Government yesterday was so large that no selection could be made; the successful parties "will be written to."

THE REFORM BILL AND PUBLIC OPINION.

The reception of the New Reform Bill would appear to be on the whole favourable. From Liverpool the report is:—"The feeling generally expressed is one of entire satisfaction with the plan as a whole; the only regret being that it is unaccompanied by the ballot. The Tories and Derbyites on 'Change looking uncommonly grave." From Manchester, it is said that Reformers seem to think there is a principle at stake worth accepting, and deserving to be battled for by all fair and constitutional means.

We are also told that the Leeds Reformers generally view the measure as, on the whole, a satisfactory one, going much beyond their anticipations. The Tories denounce it as "revolutionary." The *Daily News* of yesterday, though criticizing and condemning many portions of the plan, thought it on the whole worthy of acceptance. To-day, our contemporary is more decided:—"A more deliberate examination of the Government measure of Reform leads us to regard it—as a whole—with more favour than ever; and induces us to commend more emphatically than before its great feature and very great merit—the proposed extension of the suffrage. The bill is meant to be, and is, an honest one in its way, and though there are great mistakes in it, they may be rectified. Reformers, therefore, must all unite to carry this measure into law." The *Daily News* estimates that the bill will create half a million new county voters.

The screw-steamer "Great Britain," Matthews commander, arrived at Liverpool yesterday morning from Australia. She has brought 199 passengers, and 164,465 ounces of gold-dust as freight, and a large amount in the hands of the passengers. She sailed from Melbourne the third of December. Her run from Melbourne has, therefore, occupied 72 days.

COEN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE.—WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15, 1854.

There is no alteration to note in our trade to-day, the few sales made being at Monday's rates. Arrivals this week:—Wheat, English, 1,120 qrs., Foreign, 10,320 qrs. Barley, English, 4,430 qrs., Irish, 550 qrs., Foreign, 1,250 qrs. Oats, 1,990 qrs., Irish, 9,640 qrs., Foreign, 2,640 qrs. Flour, English, 960 sks., Foreign, 100 sks., and 5,680 barrels.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "W. T. of Chester." The verses are good—but they would be unintelligible without some knowledge of the local incidents on which they are founded.
- "Ymofynwr." We are unable to give satisfactory assurances to our correspondents.
- "J. Morgan." No—we believe not.
- "A Constant Reader." We believe there is a law which requires the closing of shops on Sunday, but cannot describe the title of the act.
- "G. Wesley." The irregularity he complains of has been unavoidable, but we believe it will not occur again.
- "Omieron." We know nothing of the company in question, and therefore cannot advise him.
- "R. Pigott." The Rev. Mr. McKerrow, of Manchester, has published a lecture on the subject named. It may doubtless be ordered from any Manchester bookseller.
- "Henry Balls, jun." We should think the residence in question may be legally assessed to the poor's rate.
- "A Welch Noncon." *The London Quarterly Review*: Partridge and Oakley. The Tract Society has published a volume on the subject—"The Book and its History."

A LITERARY SUPPLEMENT, of Eight Pages, containing Reviews of many recent interesting and valuable Publications, will be given with the *Nonconformist* of Wednesday next.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1854.

SUMMARY.

As much uncertainty as ever hangs over the Eastern question. Once again, we wait the response of the oracle at St. Petersburg, on whose decision hangs the question of peace or war. Negotiation is at an end. The Vienna conference is dissolved. The forty days allowed by the Porte for the acceptance of the last project of arrangement have expired; and the Ottoman Government is no longer bound by it. Last appeals have succeeded to fruitless negotiations. The Emperor of Austria having rejected the proposal of the Czar to fetter himself by an armed neutrality, has sent a personal expostulation to his Russian ally. Louis Napoleon has followed his example, by addressing an autograph letter to the Emperor of Russia, which was sent to St. Petersburg by a special messenger. The document has been published in the *Moniteur*. It is emphatic but courteous in its tone. The Czar is reminded that it is still in his power to terminate the quarrel with Turkey. If he wishes to do so honourably, he will withdraw his troops from the Principalities, and the fleets will be simultaneously withdrawn from the Black Sea. France and England are willing to concede to him his wish to negotiate separately with Turkey, but the result must be submitted to the sanction of the Four Powers. If he will re-commence negotiations on these terms, peace may be preserved—if not, he must accept war. The reply to this appeal can hardly be received within a week from the present time. For the fiftieth time we have reports from St. Petersburg and Vienna, that the autocrat of Russia is at length showing signs of yielding, and that Count Orloff, before leaving the Austrian capital, spoke in terms which held out some prospect that his master might yet accept the last proposal. Now that the Czar is unable to reckon upon the active co-operation of the German Powers, it is scarcely possible to believe that he is still determined to brave all Europe, now arming against him. Such, we suppose, were the narrow grounds on which Lord Aberdeen on Friday, and again last night, expressed his belief that war is not inevitable.

On the other hand, there are many serious indications that Lord Aberdeen's hopes are not likely to be realized. The preparations of Russia for crossing the Danube do not appear to have been relaxed for a moment. The discovery of an extensive conspiracy in Turkey in favour of the Czar shows the reliance he places upon the co-operation of the Greek population in humbling his opponent—though in this expectation he is likely to be disappointed. He has responded to the mandate of the Western Powers to confine his ships of war to his own ports, by sending five vessels to bombard fort St. Nicholas on the return of the combined squadron to Beicos Bay—an attack which was, happily, unsuccessful. And, lastly, the tone of the official despatches, the substance of which we have given elsewhere, and especially the spirit of Lord Clarendon's speech in the House of Lords last night,—who said that Austria had informed her powerful neighbour that, as he appeared determined to assume the aggressive, she would send a body of troops to protect her frontier,

and maintain the *status quo*, and that, to bring the respective terms of Turkey and Russia to a point of agreement, was as hopeless a task as to prolong two parallel lines till they met,—shows how slender are the prospects of peace.

The march of battalions of Guards through the City and Strand—saluted at every step with loud cries of admiration and good speed—on their way to Constantinople, via the Southampton Railway and the "Thames" steam-ship, is the mark of a condition less passive than that of "drifting towards war,"—by which unhappy phrase Lord Clarendon expressed, last night, "his mingled hopes and fears." Twenty thousand is now announced as the amount of the British contingent to the Ottoman auxiliary; and it is further announced that Malta will not be the site of intermediate debarkation, and indefinite delay. The transport service is promptly supplied by private and associated ship-owners; even the magnificent "Himalaya" and "Orinoco" condescending to the office of troop-ships. The progress of enlistment for both branches is also reported as rapidly advancing.

Despite these distractions, the Reform Bill is promised searching scrutiny and fair appreciation. While the Opposition organs in the daily press affect a contemptuous disgust, and the *Times* "damns with faint praise," the *Daily News* pronounces "the great feature, and very great merit, of the Bill,"—the extension of the suffrage,—a counter-balance to all defects and blemishes. We shall attach, however, more importance to the opinion of the Liberal provincial press, on the probable operation of the Bill, than to this hasty judgment.

The South Staffordshire election, as a striking instance of the strength of the Liberal element in a county well sown with urban voters, would strike with despair Conservative opponents of the Bill, but for the redeeming device of the minority members. The Whig-Radical Lord Paget polled 4,328 votes—while Viscount Ingestre, with much of personal prestige as well as family influence in his favour, polled but 2,769; enough, probably, to have returned him in a third place on the poll. At the election for Brecon, a gentleman of local dignity was returned unopposed, but with a significant degree of excitement ament the ballot.

China and Australia continue the great, remote wonder-lands of earth. The riving in twain of the Celestial Empire steadily proceeds, and the wedge has well-nigh reached the core. The vast southern continent looks to us vaster than ever, as we read of the exploration of Murray river, 1,700 miles from its mouth; the steamer that had made a pleasant picnic voyage up stream in some twenty-five days, returning with a cargo of cotton, gathered from the settlements that gleam, like golden fruit from out a storm of umbrageous leaves, among the sandstone cliffs, flowering fields, and arid wastes of this new Arabia Felix.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE introduction of the New Reform Bill on Monday night, throws all the other Parliamentary proceedings of the week into the shade. When the sun rises the stars disappear. Were we to take up matters in their due order of time, and give that space to the description of all that has occurred in the House which its intrinsic importance demands, we could only anticipate that successive paragraphs would be skipped, or at least skimmed over with impatience, until the central topic of the week was arrived at, which, of course, would absorb the exclusive interest of our readers. We will not, therefore, waste either our own time or theirs. We will not linger over scenes which scarcely transcend the character of mere routine. But, rushing at once to that which everybody wishes to hear about, we commence our "Notes" with some account of the long-looked-for and memorable 13th of February.

As in duty bound, we went down to the House in good time. Mr. Speaker was announced "at prayers," about five minutes before four o'clock, at which time there were not, we estimate, a hundred members present. We detected no signs of extraordinary excitement. But few seats, comparatively speaking, were ticketed as engaged, and it was evident that members in general were content to take their chance. We have observed a far livelier interest displayed in an Irish squabble. Yet, it is not to be supposed that indifference prevailed. Wherever groups of members were gathered, you would be certain of overhearing, as the theme of conversation, the expected Reform Bill. There was even an air of conscious doom about those borough members who came within a probability of losing their seats, and many a one might be heard anticipating his fate. A short respite was interposed by the preliminary business of the House. A number of private bills had to be brought in and read a first time, and Mr. Brotherton, to whom this branch of business is commonly entrusted, paced backwards and forwards between the bar and the table oftener than we had patience to count. Another batch, of between forty and fifty, were read a second time, the hon. member for Salford, in this

case, rising up from his place when called on, taking off his hat, making the motion "that this bill be now read a second time," and resuming his seat. This he did upwards of three dozen times in succession, so that, between his horizontal movements in the bringing in of bills, and his vertical movements in getting them despatched to a committee, he had an unlimited quantity of bodily exercise. This ceremony concluded, members having petitions to present discharged themselves of that duty. Then, such as wished to give notice of future motions, were summoned to deliver their intentions—and, lastly, all who had questions to put to the Government, and of which they had given due notice, proceeded to make their respective inquiries.

During this whole time, and up to five o'clock, nothing unusual was observable. The number of members present during private business was not greater than we have very often seen it, and the hum of conversation was not perceptibly more confusing. Mr. Layard first secured silence, when he rose to put two questions to Lord John Russell respecting Eastern affairs—and afterwards, Mr. Bright, when he presented a petition from Liverpool praying for the appointment of a commission to inquire into its electoral corruptions. It was exactly a quarter past five when Lord John rose, to unveil the intentions of the Government, and to make to the House an exposition of the new plan of Representative Reform. He began with characteristic *sang froid*. He deprecated the notion of a large measure of reform. He seemed to think there was not room for it. But, such as his Bill was, he meant to go forward with it; proud to imitate Earl Grey, rather than Mr. Pitt. Why should he not? Ought the probability of war to impede his onward march? He certainly abhorred war, and viewed its evils with great apprehension; but a war with Russia was no such frightful affair. The tone of this was specially adapted to the British House of Commons, and, as a matter of course, it told wonderfully upon his audience. Lord John having thus conciliated momentary good-will, proceeded to unfold the ministerial scheme,—gingerly in that portion of it which entailed disfranchisement, somewhat pompously in that which related to enfranchisement—and in that which comprised the minor features of the measure, not without some hesitation, and occasional prompting by Sir Charles Wood. The House, during the whole of this speech, was crowded, and breathlessly attentive.

We have given elsewhere a description of the measure itself—we concern ourselves now only with the effect which its announcement produced. When Lord John stated the limits of electoral and popular strength below which disfranchisement, either entire or partial, was to take place, prompt and anxious were the references to "Dod's Parliamentary Companion" by those members who knew that they were near the border line—and when he announced that 19 boroughs would thus be utterly extinguished, and 29 seats be known as such no more, he elicited something very like a half-smothered and involuntary groan. When, after a short preamble, he told the House that 46 out of 62 seats at his disposal for re-distribution, he intended to bestow upon the counties, there was an outburst of surprise, in which it is hard to say whether approbation or disapprobation predominated. That curious crotchet, first broached in the *Edinburgh Review*, according to which the minority is to be represented, was received with a deprecating growl. The proposition to give two members to the Inns of Court drew forth a shout of derision—the one member for the University of London was faintly cheered. The various descriptions of new franchises were well received—the £10 occupation franchise for counties especially so—but the £6 rating, with municipal residence, for boroughs, awakened a response of deep disappointment. His lordship concluded his speech without any peroration, and the cheering, when he resumed his place, was short and feeble. On the whole, the measure fell upon the House with unmistakable flatness.

As soon as the noble Lord sat down, there was a general rush of members to the lobbies and the dining room—and upon order being restored, Mr. Liddell, of Liverpool, was heard raising his voice in condemnation of the bill, and especially in vindication of the pure, independent, and patriotic freemen of that immaculate borough. Several speakers on both sides followed—most of them mingling complaints with commendation. Since, however, the leaders of party had arranged that the bill should be brought in without opposition, and inasmuch as the measure was of far too complicated a character to admit of being grasped without reflection and calculation, comparatively little was ventured in the shape of comment, and still less was listened to with the slightest show of interest. The entire subject was disposed of, and the bill brought in before eight o'clock.

It is very difficult to estimate the exact impression made upon the House on Monday night—unless it were one of temporary bewilderment. No one was forward to pronounce a decided opinion—every one preferred to hear what his neighbour

had to say. It was felt that the bill was a compound of good and evil elements—but which might preponderate no one chose to say without further deliberation. That it possesses some valuable features no one cared to deny—that it is a much larger scheme than that of 1852 was universally admitted. Earnest reformers thought they discerned in it, and particularly in the minority crotchet, a studied design to increase the Parliamentary strength of territorial whiggism. Probably, if we could all wake up to-morrow, and find the whole “part and parcel” of the law of the land, all would admit that a great improvement had been effected. But since the passage of the measure is extremely doubtful, and since none can expect it to receive enthusiastic support out of doors, it will be picked to pieces without remorse, and will lose much of the virtue which it now possesses. Taken in connection with the new measures for suppressing bribery, treating, and undue influence, and for the trial of controverted elections, announced to the House on Friday night, it may be regarded as a decided approximation to a better representative system in so far as concerns the middle class—but it will leave the working classes very little better off than they are at this moment. The democratic element gains nothing by the Bill.

THE NEW REFORM BILL—ITS OBJECTS AND PROVISIONS.

THE presentation of a measure like that introduced by Lord John Russell on Monday night, converts the whole country into a deliberative assembly—relegates, for a season, to the entire community, the ordinary functions of its legislative representatives. A proposition for the reconstruction of Parliament itself, is the fittest possible subject for careful examination by the people at large.

That as many of “the people at large” as we have the honour to address through these columns, may possess the fairest basis of judgment in the fullest knowledge of facts, we will here set forth, so far as we understand, what it is that the Government propose for the amendment of the representation. And we begin with the provisions for the extension of the suffrage—although in reversal of Lord John’s own order of exposition—because we regard that as the natural basis of representation, and the surest test of merit in every scheme of reform.

The first remark that must occur to any reader of this portion of Lord John’s speech is, the aggravated complexity of the franchise under the proposed settlement. Votes are now given at Parliamentary elections on three or four qualifications—as freeholders, copyholders, occupants, and freemen. In addition to these, half-a-dozen new qualifications are to be created—the minor qualification, for a borough vote, of house occupancy rated at £6 per annum; the possession of £50 in a savings’ bank; the receipt of £10 per annum from funded property, or £100 as salary; the payment of forty shillings a-year in direct taxes; and being a graduate of one of the Universities. There is to be, also, a modification of existing franchises. The £50 county qualification is to be reduced to £10,—the £10 occupier of the boroughs is to be exempt from the rate-paying clauses,—and the freeman must get himself enrolled within two years. And further, the new franchises are clogged with conditions that already burden the memory and baffle calculation. The occupant of a £6 house must have resided in one place two years and ten months, before it will entitle him to vote; the possessor of £50 in a savings’ bank, must have had it lying there in a lump not less than three years, or it will count for nothing at the poll-booth; and the worker for £100 a-year must not take it in smaller instalments than £25 at a time, if he would be deemed worthy of the suffrage. Then again, while the University graduate, the £10 householder, the possessor of £50 through three years of change, the drawers of £10 in dividends, and the taxpayers of forty shillings, may vote either for borough or county, according to the electoral or non-electoral character of the district in which they reside, the humbler £6 occupier must live in a parliamentary borough to constitute his householding a political privilege. We are not sure that we have even now stated all the various peculiarities of social condition to which the Government propose to continue or concede a right that we hold to be the simple attribute of manhood, intelligent, and of good character. But we have certainly marked the furthest limit to which the suffrage is to be extended;—more than which we cannot do—for even the author of the measure declines to conjecture or calculate how many, within these limits, will be added to the eight or nine hundred thousand that now constitute, politically, the people of England.

The redistribution of Parliamentary seats is the second object of the Bill. Its necessity is about the least disputed point of the whole question. It has long been admitted that the retention of representatives by places of insignificant size and absolute dependence, originally a compromise of parties, has become an intolerable anomaly.

There was no surprise, therefore, when Lord John Russell came to the announcement that nineteen boroughs, having less than 300 electors or 5,000 inhabitants, but returning in all twenty-nine members, it was proposed entirely to disfranchise; and the thirty-three boroughs of less than 500 electors, or 10,000 inhabitants, having two members each, to deprive of half their present number of representatives. Every one, both within and without the walls of Parliament, who had given any attention to the subject, was prepared with lists of the proscribed identical with those which Lord John Russell read off, amidst cheers and laughter, perhaps suppressed sighs and groans. It was as to the apportionment of the vacated seats that curiosity was excited. It was naturally demanded, on what principle will the redistribution be made? The demand for a principle is certainly, in this part of the case, conceded. But the concession is that of a novelty—namely, the right of a minority to representation. Because the losing candidate is often beaten by a small majority, and severe disappointment is the result, Lord John proposes to give a third member to places and districts of more than a hundred thousand inhabitants, but to restrict the choice of the electors, as at present, to two members, and constitute two-fifths of the gross poll a winning number. There are thirty-eight counties, or divisions of counties, of the population above mentioned; and thus more than half the sixty-two forfeited seats are at once allotted. The four seats now vacant by the disfranchisement of Sudbury and St. Albans, make in all sixty-six seats for redistribution. The West Riding of Yorkshire and the southern division of Lancaster, having each many times a hundred thousand inhabitants, it is proposed to subdivide them, and give three members to each of the four constituencies. Thus (33 plus 8) forty-six of the sixty-six vacant seats are filled up, and the counties provided for. Coming now to the great towns, equally entitled with the populous counties to representatives for their minorities, we begin naturally with the Tower Hamlets, Finsbury, and Marylebone, containing five, four, or three hundred thousand inhabitants each. But these the Government pass over with the remark, that London, as a whole, is already sufficiently represented. Very strangely, however, Southwark, the smallest in population of the lot, is to have a third member; as are also Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Wolverhampton, Bradford, and Sheffield. Salford is to have two members instead of one; and three out of the many now unrepresented towns of more than twenty thousand inhabitants—Birkenhead, Burnley, and Staley-bridge—are to have one member each. Although the contiguity of Marylebone to Westminster is Lord John’s alleged reason for not awarding Sir B. Hall a second colleague, Chelsea and Kensington are to be formed into a Parliamentary borough and have two representatives. There being still six seats unfilled, to the Inns of Courts are given two—to the London University, one—and to the Scotch universities, one.

There is one other provision of the Bill for which we have hitherto found no place, and which is certainly not for the amendment of the representation—namely, the repeal of so much of the Act of Queen Anne as requires the resignation of a seat in Parliament on the acceptance of high office under the Crown. Against this proposition we at once write “non-content:” its only plea is that of party convenience—the popular right it would take away is a very valuable one, especially under the Septennial Act—and as a part of the Reform Bill, it must have been substituted, by mistake, for the clause dispensing with the property qualification of members.

There are other features of the scheme on which we are equally prepared at once to pronounce, and which we would strenuously resist—as for instance, the limitation to three years’ residence of the £6 franchise, to three years’ possession of the £50 franchise, and to quarterly salaries of the £100 qualification; with the denial to the metropolitan boroughs of their indefeasible right to increased representatives. To the representation of minorities, as a fact, we have no dislike—quite otherwise; but to the principle of making provision for it, we object as a crotchet unfounded alike on reason or experience. That the Bill which contains all these crudities and anomalies, will pass as it is, we have no notion. Whether it is worth, as a whole, fighting for, to preserve it from destruction in detail, or in the hope of its improvement, is a question on which we must beg time to deliberate and decide.

THE UNSUPPRESSED PAMPHLET,

AN ANSWER TO “PALMERSTON: WHAT HAS HE DONE?”

THE acknowledged popularity of Lord Palmerston is one of the political phenomena of the present day. Without appearing to court any party in the State, he has, in turn, gained the suffrages of all. Tory journalists have lauded him as “liberal and sagacious;” Radical newspapers have hailed him as

the coming man—the Premier expectant who, “as if by intuition, would detect, and with consummate skill defeat, the machinations of certain plotters.” The public in general coincide with the press, and believe the noble lord to be the embodiment of a vigorous national policy—forward to vindicate English honour and to champion the cause of humanity. On more than one occasion we have endeavoured to show that this faith is utterly at variance with facts; and that a review of Lord Palmerston’s career compels the irresistible conviction, that his foreign policy, through a long series of years, while evincing great ability and singular vigour, has done little to promote the cause of freedom, to protect the weak against the aggressions of the strong, or to elevate the character of Great Britain in the eyes of continental nations.

The opinion we have all along maintained is completely corroborated by a pamphlet now lying before us, entitled “Palmerston in Three Epochs.” It is a most timely publication, following so closely upon the production of the “Suppressed Pamphlet”—to which it may be considered an effectual antidote—and upon the exploded stories of Court intrigue, which, whatever damage they may have caused in some directions, have made our present Home Secretary appear a martyr in the cause of independence. Mr. Wilks’s pamphlet deserves, and will command, attention for many reasons. It is published with the name of the writer, who candidly avows that he “was not long since one of those who believed and trusted in Palmerston, according to the Russell formula,” but whose “cherished faith” has been completely dissipated “by tracking his Lordship’s footsteps through the history of the past forty years.” This confession is borne out by the pamphlet itself, which exhibits vigour without acrimony. It is, however, for its basis of solid facts, rather than on personal grounds, that this pamphlet deserves perusal. The conclusions to which it conducts are abundantly sustained by official documents and authenticated facts. Lord Palmerston is judged out of his own mouth, and from such evidence there is no appeal. The three epochs through which the career of the noble lord is traced are—that of English alliance with continental absolutism—that of English intervention in favour of independent nationalities and constitutional governments—and that of vacillation; alternate intervention and non-intervention. Under the latter section, Lord Palmerston’s foreign policy in respect to Poland, Belgium and Holland, Spain and Portugal, Cracow, Hungary, Turkey, and France, is sketched, and filled-in with copious extracts from Blue Books. The following summary of the writer’s general conclusions, is at the same time a favourable specimen of his graphic and telling style.

“Unconscious of having misstated any one of the facts here presented, or of suppressing any that might favour a conclusion different from his own, he [the writer] asks the Englishman, of whatever rank or party, who may read these pages, What has Palmerston ever done that you should trust to his conduct of foreign affairs? What single quality, the possession of which would entitle him to your admiring confidence, do his acts evince? The extermination of Poland, the absorption of Cracow by Austria, the subjection of Sicily to Naples, the restoration of Rome to the Pope,—are these results of which Palmerston is guiltless, or only misfortunes which do not forbid him to be proud? The silent abandonment of Hungary to Russia, the humiliation of Turkey in her grandest moments, the suggestion of Kossuth’s detention abroad and the menace of his liberty in England, invariable cordiality with the representatives of Nicholas, and hasty fraternization with Louis Napoleon,—are these the fitting achievements and habits of the Protestant, English, and Liberal statesman *par excellence*? We ask not for the principle that has governed the policy, so fruitful in disasters though so dazzling in its progress. We do not demand whether Palmerston acts by the maxims of Chatham or of Canning—whether his motto be Antipathetic Alliance, or Constitutional Propagandism. The answer to that inquiry we were obliged to anticipate in the relation of events. But we ask for the proofs of that sagacity and vigour—that shrewdness in detecting, and energy in defeating, designs against the general good of the European family, which have been displayed by statesmen of English indifference to philosophical rules of political action. Nearly every event of his administration places us in the dilemma of distrusting his wit or his sincerity. We have seen him promising to enforce treaty arrangements for the maintenance of Polish independence—yet declining the most obvious methods of giving effect to his promise, lamenting the impossibility of averting what he had declared could not happen, and privily denying the existence of the rights he had pretended to champion. We have seen that, by a positive breach of faith with the House of Commons, he withholds the recognition of Cracovian independence when it is threatened, and delays even remonstrance till remonstrance is ludicrously late. We have seen that the Hungarian people, profuse professions of sympathy for whom he makes in public, he privately ignores—denies, on authority previously impeached, the intention of Russia to invade Hungary through Turkey—is warned of the deception practised upon him, and shows no suspicion—is humiliated by the demonstration of his credulity, yet displays no resentment—expresses only regret while England is raging with indignation—offers to mediate when conquest has given the rein to revenge—makes Queen Victoria learn with gratification the fall of a kingdom to which she might have given a sovereign—and accepts with the meekness of a saint, the insult he has provoked by the ill-timed interference of a bungler. To exhaust the illustrations of this melancholy theme would be to rewrite all that has been already written. The humiliating story turns up on every page. The English statesman who is all intellect, nerve, and heart, in the popular

* Palmerston in Three Epochs; a Comparison of Facts with Opinions. By WASHINGTON WILKS, author of “A History of the Half Century.” London: W. Freeman, 69, Fleet-street.

conception, is the dupe of every knavish diplomatist that has an end to serve in duping him—is always too late when help is right is to be defended against lawless might—always in a perilous hurry when some tramp squabble is to be settled. The Protestant standard-bearer assists to carry back to the chair of temporal dominion the runaway Pope. The vigilant and invincible guardian of English honour submits with equanimity to rebuffs from big Austria and little Naples—and advises the Turk not to assert the sacredness of his territory against stronger neighbours. The experience of twenty years of nearly uninterrupted power, and forty of unreserved opportunity for observation, has not furnished a solitary maxim of statesmanship, or a single example of administrative vigour. The 'juvenile Whig' is still the epithet that expresses the jaunty freshness of the politician of seventy. No one can argue from the past of Palmerston what will be his future, or devise a case in which his course of action would be clear. This only can be predicated of his home politics—that difference of opinion will be no bar to participation of office; and this only of his foreign policy—that while a great power has nothing to fear from his enmity, a little one has everything to dread from his favour.

This is a bill of indictment which the admirers of Lord Palmerston will find it difficult alike to ignore and to rebut.

But it may be asked, Why, at this present juncture, revive these serious charges against the reputation of one of our leading statesmen? First, because moral as well as political evil results from overrating the value of a man unprincipled and specious—so hollow and yet so fascinating. Secondly, that Englishmen may be warned, that in regarding Lord Palmerston as the champion of continental freedom, they are indulging a delusion which, should he ever become Premier, they would bitterly repent. Thirdly, because Lord Palmerston is the most tenacious defender of that diplomatic secrecy which renders our foreign policy, to a great extent, irresponsible of national control, and is, as we believe, the remote cause of our present *imbroglio* with Russia. And lastly, because, although he has been the director of our foreign policy for the greater part of the last twenty years, his colleagues in office have shared his opinions and responsibilities. The current of their sympathies, as well as his, has uniformly flowed in the direction of absolutist courts. "The integrity of the Austrian empire" is more than a Palmerstonian phrase—it is the key-stone of our aristocratic foreign policy. We tremble lest the precious blood and treasure of this country be lavished to purchase the safety of tottering thrones, and quench the hopes of fettered peoples.

MAKING A STEPPING-STONE OF SUCCESS.

THE soirée given to Mr. Milner Gibson, by the Society for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, was well said, by Mr. Cobden, to illustrate the proverbial definition of "Gratitude—a lively sense of favours to come." In that sense, the complimentary demonstration of Wednesday last was evidently intended, and in that sense it was cordially accepted. A skilful general was fêted on his first success in a five years' war, chiefly that he might be encouraged to renewed aggressions and larger conquests.

The repeal of the advertisement duty was an achievement valuable on its own account. It enabled to walk erect many a child of the press that heretofore tottered to its fall, under accumulated fiscal burdens. It called into healthful life many a printed sheet—as many, we have heard, as a hundred and fifty—that otherwise must have remained a project, or been born only to unavailing gasps. It has made the *Times* a daily sheet of twelve pages, and brought the luxury of an occasional "supplement" within the reach of the poorest diurnals and weeklies. On the provincial newspaper, in particular, it has had a marked effect—enlarging its area, brightening its type, improving its intelligence, and, in many cases, even creating its literature. The public share in these benefits has not been solely indirect, for cheapness of communication has been a direct and very appreciable benefit to nearly every class of the community.

But the highest use of the success of last session was tentative. It at once weakened the defences and reinforced the assailants of the stamp-tax and the paper-duty. It extracted from Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, the confession that "the fiscal aspect of the newspaper stamp question is most insignificant"—an avowal, touching a revenue of less than £200,000 per annum, which could not have been made in haste, or without meaning; and either of the two possible meanings of which is of equal service. It has furnished a new example of the elasticity of industry when released from fiscal pressure. And it has added to the active enemies of these surviving imposts, just as many as have been vitally benefited by the extinction of their late colleague. That the whole of the thus indebted are not clamorous for "more," is because they have come to possess an interest separable from that of the public—an interest in freedom from competition, worth the forfeit of entire release from class burdens. But probably every one of the hundred and fifty new periodicals is conscious of enormous disadvantage in the present compulsion to stamp. There have sprung up, for instance,

a great number of weekly advertising sheets and monthly papers. The former encroach just as far as the Stamp-office will allow them on the law prohibiting the unstamped publication of news,—while the latter are eager to quadruple their profits by quadrupling their yearly issues. Both of these classes of prints are so much clear gain to the cause of the Society for Promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge: they ought to make a sensible addition to its funds, also. For the success of the new campaign must greatly depend on the force that can be exerted by petitions and private Parliamentary memorials.

The *Times* has, within the last few days, furnished a powerful plea for the movement to which it is nevertheless hostile. In an article on Cheap Literature it has made an earnest appeal to the great publishers to let the people have the best books at low prices, on the double ground of public benefit and commercial advantage. By the statistics of publishing enterprise, and a paraphrase of Sir John Herschel's famous encomium on a taste for reading, the writer makes out a splendid case. We address the same, or very similar, considerations to the *Times* and its readers, on behalf of an untaxed press. That we have now thirty-shilling novels at eighteenpence, is owing, in part, to the cheapness of advertising. Another very considerable item in the cost of book production, would be knocked off with the paper duty. But, after all, for the creation of that universal "taste for reading" which is the marked distinction between the conditions of book-making in England and America, what agent so efficient as the unstamped newspaper? what other agent can be efficient?

ANOTHER LESSON ON THE NEGLECT OF COMMON THINGS.

THE house, No. 19, Princes-street, Soho, was, one morning last week, the scene of a frightful calamity. An hour or two before daybreak, a servant girl sleeping on the first floor was awoken by the smell of fire. She alarmed the sleepers on the same floor,—who burst open the door they were unable, in their fright, to unlock, and, with her, rushed into the street in their night dresses. The alarm soon drew, even at that hour, a mob of spectators,—but no assistance. There was a parish fire-engine, under the charge of an experienced fireman, at the end of the street; but he and it—(the assertion is made in evidence, or we would not repeat it)—in pursuance of written orders, were not available. There was a fire-escape station hard by, but its custodian had gone to help a fellow-officer take home his machine in the dawn. When, therefore, a screaming group,—father, mother, two children, and twin babes,—cried in agony from the second-floor window for a ladder, they were told there was none; the father pitched into the street, and his family fell back into the flames that scorched them from their hold upon the sill. On the third floor there lived a tailor, his wife, and a woman of eighty-six. The two former got upon the parapet, and would have found safety on the roof of the next house; but finding it cut off by a wall, turned back, to perish with the miserable old woman on the burning floor. When the firemen did arrive, they rescued only eight corpses.

Are we attributing to human neglect what is solely a Providential calamity—are we exaggerating the influence of little things on great events—when we say that these eight lives, with the scorched and battered ninth, were sacrificed to a disregard of obvious precautions, that is only beneath the highest degree of criminality because not preposterously malicious? If water were supplied on every floor of a house tenanted by separate families in nearly every room, and the pipes were always open to the main—if every house had a trap to the roof easy of access, and parapets were not divided by walls breast high—if balconies connected the higher windows of neighbouring houses—if even to the parish engine, always under open shelter at night, there were attached a sheet of sail-cloth, which, held by the corners, would securely receive the jumper from above,—if all, or even some, of these "little things" were minded by builders and parish officers, need we have old women and children burnt to death in the very sight of a frantic but helpless multitude,—not more to the suffering of the victims than to the reproach of society?

THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

A soirée was given on Wednesday evening at the Whittington Club, to the Right Hon. Milner Gibson M.P., by the society for the abolition of these taxes, at once to compliment that gentleman on his successful efforts for the repeal of the advertisement duty, and to promote the remaining objects of the society. There was a very large company of ladies and gentlemen to tea; after which Sir J. Shelley, M.P. for the city of Westminster, in which the meeting was held, took the

chair. By way of agreeable prelude to the speeches, songs and duets were given by Miss Hincks, Miss C. Felton, Mr. Hincks, and other vocalists of talent and repute.

Mr. S. LUCAS proposed, in a somewhat discursive speech, the first "sentiment":—"The right of free speech a primary right, and the means of obtaining all others."

Mr. W. HICKSON proposed, in a speech of interesting reminiscences, "Mr. Thomas Milner Gibson, and his supporters in the House of Commons."

To this, and the general compliment of the evening's proceedings, Mr. GIBSON responded in a long and very able speech, bringing out the different points of the question with much effect. Touching the necessity of continual pressure on the House of Commons, he told one or two good stories. Mr. Hickson had said that some years ago people did not know what was meant by the term "taxes on knowledge."

I myself heard of a gentleman some time ago in the House of Commons, who said that he did not know what was meant by the repeal of "taxes on knowledge," all that he did know was that it was something that he had to vote for. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Not that I am an advocate for the absence of deliberations of members of Parliament, and a knowledge of the subjects upon which they have to vote, but what I wish to express emphatically to the meeting is this, that nothing can be done in Parliament through our representative system, except there be the co-operation with members of those who have influence without the walls of Parliament.

There were many gentlemen in the House of Commons who were very favourable to a cause till they found it was likely to win. Guarantee a minority, and they would vote with you. They were men of good intentions, but timid, and afraid to embarrass the Government. He once brought a motion before the House and met with some success. It was supported by members on both sides, but his seconder said to him, "You had better not divide." He asked, "Why not?" and the answer was, "Why we shall have a majority." (Hear, hear, and laughter.) They proposed, in the present session, to press on the attention of the Government the necessity of following up the repeal of the advertisement duty, by the total abolition of the newspaper stamp. (Loud cheers.) He concluded by proposing "The memory of Francis Place, Henry Hetherington, and the agitators of 1836," and paid a strong tribute to the character of both the gentlemen named.

Mr. CORDEN also delivered one of his ablest speeches, reproducing the old arguments with all the force of novel illustrations:—

There was no use in giving the farm labourer or the village mechanic one of the high-priced London newspapers, although, looking to the ability with which they were conducted, the variety and importance of their news, their high literary reputation, and the capital embarked in them, they were the cheapest papers in the world. Supposing even the labourer could get hold of one, he had no table in his cottage upon which he could spread the enormous sheet, and his single rush-light would not enable him to distinguish the mass of type. Moreover, he did not want to read long advertisements about the sale in which he had no interest; nor did he want to read the money article and city intelligence, because he never had a pound in his life. The telegraph messages from "Our own Correspondents" at Berlin and Vienna, although profoundly interesting to the upper and middle classes, had no charm for him, for he had never heard of such places in his life. What he wanted was, a newspaper for a penny to circulate in his own neighbourhood, and which would contain all the news which could interest him in his confined sphere of action. He wanted to know who was taken up for poaching—who was the man who captured him—who was the magistrate by whom he was committed—what he said, and what was done with him; whether he received a month or a week's imprisonment; or whether he got off altogether. If the newspaper stamp was removed, he had no doubt that before the expiration of five years, a paper of that sort could be purchased for a penny in every village in the country.

The sentiment he had to propose was:—"The abolition of the newspaper stamp, and of the remaining restrictions on the press, an indispensable necessity to popular progress in intelligence, morality, and the acquisition of political power."

Dr. WATTS, of Manchester, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, after which the company dispersed.

The following advertisement is copied from the *Mercurius Reformatus* of June 11, 1890, vol. ii., No. 27:—Mr. John Bunyan, author of the "Pilgrim's Progress," and many other excellent books that have found great acceptance, hath left behind him ten manuscripts prepared by himself for the press before his death. His widow is desirous to print them (with some other of his works) which have been already printed (but which are at present not to be had)—which will make together a book of 10s. in sheets, in fol. All persons who desire that so great and good a work should be performed with speed are desired to send in 5s. for their first payment to Dorman Newman at the King's Arms in the Poultry, London, who is empowered to give receipts for the same. Can any of your readers say whether such a publication as that which is here proposed ever took place—that is, a publication of "ten manuscripts" of which none had been previously printed?—S. B. MAITLAND.

SUPPLEMENTARY DESPATCHES ON THE RUSSO-TURKISH DISPUTE.

On Friday night, correspondence, forming Part III. of the Blue Books on Russia and Turkey, was presented to both Houses of Parliament. It comprises six letters, by Count Nesselrode Baron Brunow, and by Lord Clarendon to the Baron and to Sir Hamilton Seymour. On the 16th of January, Count Nesselrode instructed the Russian ambassador to ask for explicit explanation as to the course to be pursued by the fleets in the Black Sea, and defended the massacre at Sinope as a necessary consequence of the two Powers allowing maritime expeditions to proceed against the Asiatic coast in the occupation of Russia, and permitting Turkey to declare war.

"If," says the Count, "they considered as contrary to the independence of the Porte, the pretension entirely to interdict it from engaging in hostilities, we ask how that of allowing it henceforth to undertake hostilities only to a certain extent, would be more consistent with the idea which they entertain of that same independence? As for ourselves, it is impossible for us to look upon such a resolution in any other light than as a violence offered to our belligerent rights. The Emperor, therefore, finds himself obliged solemnly to protest against the declaration which has been addressed to him, and can in no wise admit its legality."

"He will await, in order to decide upon the course that he shall adopt, the manner in which the declaration shall have been carried into execution by the Admirals of the two fleets, and the attitude which their vessels shall take with regard to our own."

"He cannot but regret to see the peace with England and France, which he has never been desirous of interrupting, put in jeopardy by this fresh extension given to a system of pressure which the two maritime Powers have deemed it their duty to adopt towards him, and which, advancing step by step, involving each time more and more his dignity as well as their own, at the same time that it encouraged the Porte to push matters to extremities, has ended by bringing affairs in the East to their actual state of tension. At the present moment, a mere chance is sufficient to bring about a collision from which a general conflagration would ensue, and the Emperor disclaims beforehand, the responsibility of the first step which shall have given the signal for it."

In accordance with these instructions of the Russian Chancellor, Baron Brunow, on the 25th of January, wrote to Lord Clarendon asking whether, in the occupation of the Black Sea by the combined fleet, the conditions enforced upon the belligerent powers are to be exactly equal; whether, if Turkish vessels may convey reinforcements to Turkish ports in Asia, Russia is free to convey reinforcements to Russian ports in Asia?

In reply, Lord Clarendon, on the 30th ult., reiterated the explanations verbally communicated to Count Nesselrode by the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, which were to the effect "that Her Majesty's ships, and those of the Emperor of the French would enter the Black Sea, and require every Russian-ship-of-war which they might meet to return to a Russian port, and that if the summons were not attended to it would be enforced; but that Her Majesty's Government, being not less anxious than they were before to effect a peaceful settlement of difficulties, would take measures for preventing any aggressive operation by sea on the part of the Turkish fleet against the Russian territory." Lord Clarendon says that these instructions will be strictly adhered to.

"The undersigned at the same time begs to add, that the maintenance of friendly relations with Russia is earnestly desired by Her Majesty's Government, whose best efforts will continue to be exerted to secure a just and honourable solution of the differences between Russia and the Porte; but a duty has been imposed upon Her Majesty's Government by Russia from the performance of which they will not shrink. Turkey is the aggrieved and the weaker Power: a portion of her territory has been forcibly occupied and retained, while military preparations upon a scale of the greatest magnitude are made by Russia; and in defending Turkey from the imminent danger that threatens her, Her Majesty's Government uphold that fundamental principle of European policy involved in the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire that has been repeatedly proclaimed by the five great Powers of Europe."

"The extent to which this defence may be carried, and the nature of the operations it may entail, must depend on the course which may be pursued by Russia; but Her Majesty's Government indulge a hope that peace may yet be negotiated upon the reasonable terms proposed by the Porte for the acceptance of Russia, and in the case of that acceptance an armistice, both by sea and land, would stop the effusion of blood, and put an end to embarrassment regarding naval operations, and differences which now endanger the general peace of Europe might then be speedily terminated."

In a letter to Sir H. Seymour, dated Jan. 31, the Earl of Clarendon, in reference to the Czar's disclaimer of "the responsibility of the first step" towards war, observes, that it would appear that "the Russian government had forgotten the origin of this unhappy quarrel." He then pithily and forcibly recalls the main fact of the case:—

"They would seem to have forgotten that, so soon as the only cause of difference between Russia and the Porte had been satisfactorily terminated, Prince Menschikoff required, in peremptory terms, the assent of the Sultan to a certain large and new interpretation of the treaty of Kainardji; that upon the offer of the Turkish Government to substitute other conciliatory assurances for those proposed by Prince Menschikoff, the Russian Ambassador at once quitted Constantinople; that immediately afterwards Count

Nesselrode required the Porte, within the space of eight days, to send back, signed, the note which the Sultan had previously declared it would be fatal to his independence to accept, under a threat that if His Highness did not comply, Russian armies would occupy the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia: that when the Sultan refused to submit, under compulsion, to so degrading a demand, the previous threat was at once carried into execution, and provinces of the Sultan, containing 4,000,000 of his subjects, were invaded in time of profound peace by Russian forces; that the territory of the Sultan had since been occupied as a conquered country, the Russian Government thus violating the *status quo* of Europe, contradicting the intentions proclaimed by the great powers of Europe in 1840 and 1841, and stamping Russia as the disturber of the general peace."

"Not content with this aggression, which at first was announced as a temporary occupation and as a material pledge, held only until the demands of Russia upon the Porte should be satisfied, the Emperor of Russia has prepared great armies at vast expense, apparently with the object of crossing the Danube, and attempting the conquest of Constantinople."

"Nor is it to be overlooked, frequently as I have urged that topic, that no injury to the Christian subjects of the Porte afforded even a pretext for such acts. On the contrary, with the introduction of new laws for their protection, their own gradual progress in wealth and intelligence, and by general advance in the arts of peace, the condition of the Christians was manifestly improving."

"All the serious events that have since arisen—the deplorable effusion of human blood, the oppression of the people of the Principalities, the aggression upon the Russian territory in Asia, the disaster at Sinope, and the entrance of the combined fleets into the Black Sea, are the direct consequences of the unprovoked conduct of the Russian Government; and if unhappily a chance encounter should produce a collision from which a general conflagration should arise, the Emperor of Russia will in vain attempt to throw off a responsibility which must attach to him who, in time of profound peace, first invaded the territory of his unoffending neighbour."

The fifth letter is the announcement, by Baron Brunow, that he shall suspend diplomatic intercourse, and proceed to Germany until further orders.

The sixth contains Lord Clarendon's announcement of this event to our Ambassador at St. Petersburg, and instructs him, "immediately on the receipt of this despatch, to inform Count Nesselrode that you are instructed to withdraw from St. Petersburg, together with every member of her Majesty's mission. You will return to England, and avoid all unnecessary delay in quitting the Russian dominions. Similar instructions will this day be addressed to M. de Castelbajac by the French Government."

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

The Government are taking the necessary steps to send out to Malta, as the first division of the British contingent destined for the defence of Turkey, a body of infantry 10,000 strong, and a proportionate force of cavalry and artillery. The extent to which this auxiliary force may hereafter be increased will, of course, depend upon circumstances. The division will consist of 3 battalions of the Guards—the 4th, 28th, 33rd, 50th, 77th, and 93rd Regiments of the line, and the 2nd battalion of the Rifle Brigade. This arrangement will only withdraw two regiments from Ireland—viz., from Dublin and Athlone; two from Scotland; and six from England. The Artillery force will include five field batteries and one brigade for small-arm ball cartridge. It is not expected that the brigade of Cavalry will leave until early in March. Its destination will be Constantinople, and it will comprise the Scots Greys, the Carbineers, the 17th Lancers, the 11th Hussars, the 8th Hussars, and the Enniskillens. The Duke of Cambridge will take the command, assisted by General Brotherton and the Earl of Cardigan. Lord Raglan, it is stated, has been appointed to the chief command of the expedition. Another report is, that Major-General Sir De Lacy Evans, K.C.B., is to command, and Major-General Sir Richard England, K.C.B., and Major-General Bentinck to have divisions. The only transports now at home available for conveying the troops to Malta are the Simoom, Vulcan, Bulldog, and Dragon. These, it is said, are capable of carrying 1,200 men each—a considerable number, but falling far short of what is required for the present emergency. The Government have, therefore, chartered the following steamers:—From the General Screw Steamship Company—the Golden Fleece, 2,500 tons; the Jason, 2,500; the Cape of Good Hope, 700; the Propontis, 600. From the Peninsular and Oriental Company—the Himalaya, 3,500; the Manila, 650; the Ripon, 900. From the Cunard Company—the Cambria; the Niagara. From the Australian Company—the Victoria. From the Irish companies, it is stated by Mr. James Hartley, that three or four steamers can be obtained for transport service. The General Screw Company have also received notice to hold at the disposal of the Government the following ships of their fleet, now on their way home:—The Queen of the South, 1,850; the Hydaspes, 1,850; the Harbinger, 921. From the ports of London, Liverpool, Southampton, and Glasgow, a further supply of steamers can be procured to any extent that may be required, but at present there is a reluctance to interrupt the regular transit of our ocean mails, and the above enumeration merely comprises those ships that can at the moment be spared. The chartered companies, with the exception of "The General Screw," thus have their fleets almost unbroken by the assistance which thus far they are called on to supply. It is also stated that the Government are wisely determined to give a fair allowance of elbow-room on the passage out to the Mediterranean. From 200 to 250 tons register will be allowed to every 106 men, so that

the whole force will reach the point of rendezvous not only with all the speed of steam, but in the best possible condition. For the heavier munitions of war, and probably the artillery horses, sailing vessels will be employed, and it is understood that some of Mr. Green's and Mr. Duncan Dunbar's finest ships have already been engaged for the service. From these details some conception may be formed of the military preparations of the Government, so far as they have yet been developed. It is not improbable that steamers, hitherto the property of English companies, will be employed in conveying the French auxiliary army to the East. It is stated that the Transatlantic Steam Navigation Company, of which the Duke de Montebello is chairman, and the formation of which was announced some months ago, has recently purchased in this country a fleet of ten screw steamers, and it is believed the company has placed these ships, which are of large size, at the disposal of the Emperor for the present emergency.

At Malta the troops will assemble from the several ports of embarkation in the United Kingdom meet their commanders, and proceed together to the point where their presence will be deemed most useful and most efficient. Their destination will probably be Varna, on the Black Sea, where they can act in concert with our fleet. The French contingent in defence of Turkey may probably be larger on land, as it is smaller by sea. The destination of the French force, computed at 30,000 to 40,000 men, is said to be the Bay of Enos, which is the bay on the west side of the entrance to the Dardanelles, as Besika Bay is on the eastern side. It is an admirable roadstead, and the town lies at the mouth of a river (Meritza) of some magnitude, which passes down by Adrianople, where the French force may probably be posted, and where the Sultan is about to remove his court.

The naval preparations are now chiefly directed to the formation and complete equipment of the fleet which is to be sent early next month to the North Sea and the Baltic, and which is to consist of the following ships:—Duke of Wellington (screw), 131 guns; Neptune, 120; St. George, 120; Royal George (screw), 120; St. Jean d'Acre (screw), 101; Princess Royal (screw), 91; Caesar (screw), 91; Nile (screw), 91; James Watt (screw), 91; Prince Regent, 90; Monarch 84; Cressy (screw), 81; Majestic (screw), 80; Boscawen, 70; Cumberland, 70; Blenheim (screw), 60; Hogue (screw), 60; Edinburgh (screw), 58; Ajax (screw), 58; Imperieuse (screw), 51; Eurymachus (screw), 51; Arrogant (screw), 46; Pique, 40; Amphion (screw), 34; Dauntless (screw), 33; Tribune (screw), 30; Leopard (paddle), 18; Magicienne (paddle), 16; Valorous (paddle), 16; Desperate (screw), 8. This list speaks for itself, and requires no comment.

An account from Portsmouth, dated Sunday, says:—The preparations for war here are upon a stupendous scale. Were the Russians coming to Portsmouth, instead of the fleet going from Portsmouth to Russia, greater stir and excitement could scarcely prevail afloat and ashore. Vans, omnibuses, and other vehicles may be seen rolling along the main thoroughfares from the railway terminus as each train arrives, containing seamen and volunteers in fifties, all greeted with the warmest reception by the population, and seemingly as jolly among themselves as sailors bent on favourite service can be. In a few days a matchless fleet will be formed at Spithead. The pioneer of this great force emerged from the harbour yesterday afternoon—the "Hecla" steam-sloop, Master-Commander Peter Wellington, which is appointed to make surveys before the advance of the fleet intended for operations in the Baltic. The "Hecla" received her powder, shot, and shell from the hoys at Spithead, and she left about 6 o'clock to commence her task. She takes on board in the Thames several of the junior Elder Brethren of the Trinity House, and upwards of a dozen North Sea skilled pilots. She will proceed along the coast of Scotland. She is well armed and finely manned, and the utmost cordiality and unanimity prevail among the officers. Rear-Admiral Chads, C.B., shifted his flag yesterday morning from the "Princess Royal," in the harbour, to the "Edinburgh," 58, at Spithead, when that ship exchanged salutes with the Commander-in-Chief of the port.

The North Sea fleet is to be in the Downs on the 6th of March.

The following order was issued at Portsmouth on Wednesday:—"All Greenwich pensioners under sixty years of age, no matter how employed or engaged, are directed to attend at the Pension-office between this day and Saturday next, for the purpose of receiving a printed form to attend on Tuesday, the 14th instant, for inspection by officers of the Admiralty to ascertain their fitness for service. If this notice is not attended to, they will be subject to loss of pension."

A few days since, tenders demanded for supplying 1,000 quarters of wheat for the use of the navy, were to be delivered at Portsmouth on Wednesday. Subsequently, however, orders came down by telegraph from the Admiralty to take the unprecedented quantity of 3,000 quarters; which were contracted for as follows:—1,000 quarters at 86s. per quarter, 1,000 at 87s. 4d., 100 at 88s. 9d., 500 at 89s., 400 at 89s. 10d.

Government notices have been posted on 'Change and at Lloyd's, inviting tenders for steam-ships to convey troops to Malta, to be delivered on the 17th; also for seven or eight good coppered ships to convey cavalry, for four months or longer, tenders to be delivered on the 14th; and for vessels to convey to Malta the following military and naval stores—viz., 800 tons provisions (navy), 45 tons ditto (army), 49 tons of ordnance stores (light), including 20 feet of combustible stores, and 307 tons ordnance stores (heavy), consisting of guns, shot, &c.

The Rev. Spencer Jones was recently advertised to deliver in Chepstow, in the Wesleyan Chapel, "a funeral sermon for the patriarch Moses!"

THE WEST INDIA COLONIES.

In Jamaica, the arrangements for the correction of some of the evils pointed out by the Duke of Newcastle in the management of business in the House of Assembly appear to have been settled:—The Governor is to select one or more members of the House of Assembly (not exceeding three), and one member of Council, to interpret the views of the Government, and to maintain harmony between the two Chambers and the Executive, on measures of general policy, besides bringing forward all the financial measures, which are henceforth to be left to the management and control of the Executive. They are to receive £800 a-year, and £500 as an allowance for extra expenses in the whole. The Board of Council is to be increased to seventeen members, appointed for life, of whom four only are to be officials, with authority to originate bills not being "money bills." There is an equally sweeping reform of the judicial system to be made. The duties of the Vice-Chancellor are to be transferred to the Chief Justice, and of the Registrar to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, without additional salary. The Court of Admiralty to be abolished, and its functions transferred to the Courts of Assize. The *Standard*, in reference to these arrangements, says "they have kept the executive authority where it was. The members who are to be selected from the Legislature will be mere executive agents; not Ministers of Departments. They will have no portfolios, and will possess no ministerial authority in dispensation of patronage. We have a firm conviction that a very short trial of this system will prove its vast advantage over the present mode of discharging the legislative business of the country, and that its simplicity will be found as invaluable as its usefulness."

It appears that these arrangements are to be followed by a reform bill. We hope it will be calculated to secure a true representation of the people of all classes. Lord John Russell's Bill will serve as a model.

The *Berbice Gazette* publishes an ordinance just passed by the Legislature of British Guiana, enabling the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown to borrow 100,000 dollars for draining the city of Georgetown; and authorising the levying a rate to pay the interest, and repay by instalments, the principal. This looks as though the Governor had at last convinced the influential people, that the first step to improvement is drainage. Until this has been effected, it is really cruel to induce emigrants to come to such a country, and folly to expect to keep them there. Those who survive, escape from it as soon as possible, and the few resident proprietors generally send their wives and children to England, America, or Barbadoes to recover health. This would be quite unnecessary, if they would take the advice of such men as Dr. Blair, and make the country healthy by drainage in the first instance.

Mr. James Laing, an extensive and enterprising estate-owner in Berbice, has sent home 1,400 hogsheads of sugar as the last year's crop. He has adopted one of the new processes of manufacture, and has thus not only obtained at least £4,000 more as the price of his sugar, but, sending it home dry, 140 hogsheads more in quantity, which would, by the old method, have leaked out in the voyage, but has now reached the market—so that the crop has yielded him at least £6,000 more than as if he had pursued the old wasteful method. If the ordinary estimate of one-third be taken as the value of the rum and molasses made on the estate, it will give at least £35,000 as the value of a crop made by one proprietor. On the completion of the crop, Mr. Laing entertained his labourers at tea-meetings, at one of which the Presbyterian minister, and at the other, the missionary connected with the London Missionary Society, took the lead. This proves that the estate-owner, the ministers of religion, and the people, all understand both their duty and their interests; and certainly, £35,000, or perhaps more, for a single crop, does not look like ruin as the result of free-labour and free-trade. If these lands had been thoroughly drained, the produce would have been at least as much again, and the cost of production still less than according to the open-drain and hand-labour system generally adopted. Mr. Laing obtained a medal at the Great Exhibition for his sugar, and if he will thorough-drain his estates, and thus introduce a better system of cultivation, he will, be the greatest benefactor the colony ever had.

According to the *Demerara Royal Gazette*, "questions momentous to the colony of British Guiana are apparently delayed by the Legislature until the arrival of Mr. Wodehouse. Education, immigration, sanitary improvement, and such modifications in existing statutes as will cheapen and facilitate justice, have been too long postponed. The high price of every commodity, combined with the scarcity of the means of transit for produce, will be a subject of serious consideration to the coming Combined Court, if the sort of dead-lock which now exists in the matter of shipping should still continue. New arrangements will also have to be made as to the indenturing of Coolies, the Governor-General of India having consented to an industrial indenturing for ten years in every case in which a back passage is claimed."

The *Antigua Weekly Register* states that the inhabitants of that colony are intent on a plan for bringing to market a number of fibrous plants, which have hitherto been wasted in the West Indies, and which may serve as a substitute for Russian hemp and flax, now in greater demand than ever.

The *Colonist* refers very favourably to the proposed drainage of Georgetown; and, with regard to railway extension, says:—"We trust yet to see the railway extended to Berbice, and the advantage of speedy and sure communication bestowed on other parts of the colony likewise; for it is certain that this is the great means of civilization and advancement."

THE PRESTON MASTERS AND OPERATIVES.

A new and somewhat more hopeful aspect has suddenly been given to the Preston struggle. A special meeting of the associated masters was held on Wednesday; and, in pursuance of a resolution then adopted, public notice was given:—"That the several mills of the Associated Masters will be re-opened, and will be prepared for a resumption of work to-morrow (Thursday) at eight o'clock in the morning, upon the terms and in accordance with the resolution passed on the 4th of November last; and all persons desirous of obtaining employment may depend upon constant work, and are reminded that the masters are pledged and are fully determined to protect them against any improper interference or molestation."

The operatives were immediately called together in the Orchard. There was a very large attendance. After hearing several addresses, the multitude pledged itself not to resume work without the advance claimed.

On Thursday morning the factory bells were rung according to notice, but very few hands indeed returned to their employment. At some of the mills there was not a single applicant for work. Two of the masters, however, Messrs. Almond and Co. and Messrs. Rodgett, having given the 10 per cent., obtained a full complement of hands. The largest and most enthusiastic meeting ever witnessed in the Orchard was held at nine o'clock. The excitement was intense, but the utmost order was preserved. In a memorial which had been presented to the Masters' Association it was alleged that a large proportion of the unemployed were most anxious to resume work without the 10 per cent. "Now," said Mr. Cowell to the meeting, "for the test. Without attempting to bias your minds upon the subject—without attempting to lead you by the nose—for I believe you to be too intelligent to be so led, either by myself or by Mr. Grimshaw, or any other of the delegates—I ask you, who are determined never to succumb, who are determined to walk the streets in unwilling idleness until the masters of Preston think proper to concede your just and inalienable rights—you who are thus determined, hold up your hands." The response was instantaneous and universal, and the hearty hurrahs of the vast multitude rent the air. A more extraordinary and thrilling scene of the kind was never witnessed. Meetings of the hands belonging to the different mills were held in detail, at the Temperance Hall, every hour, commencing at eleven, and terminating at seven o'clock.

The lock-out at Bury is at an end, but the old hands are, nearly all of them, still on the strike.

The hand-loom silk weavers of Middleton and the neighbourhood have solicited an advance of a half-penny a-yard for weaving silk, and nearly all the silk manufacturers in Manchester have complied.

The agitation in favour of an increase in the rate of wages received by various classes in the west of England is still kept up in several parts. At Teignmouth, the police force have made a special application to the local commissioners for an advance in their pay, on the ground that not only are all the necessities of life extraordinarily high at the present season, but that they are likely to continue so for a lengthened period, in consequence of the approaching war with Russia. The commissioners have acceded to the request, and granted an additional 2s. per week during the existence of the present high prices. At Devonport, the riggers in the dockyard have also been endeavouring to get an increase of pay, and we understand they have likewise obtained an advance of 2s. per week. At Exeter, the police have made a similar application to the town council, but without success. Among efforts to assist the labouring classes is that of Lord Bridport, who intends supplying those in his neighbourhood with the 4lb. loaf at 6d., while the bakers' charge is at present 9d.

The shipwrights of the Wear last week struck for an increase of 1s. a-day; the masters offered 6s. 6d., which was refused; subsequently the masters gave in, and granted the 6s. a-day demanded. The sawyers are on strike for an advance equal to 10s. a-week. The employers unanimously refused their demand.

ELECTIONS.

The nomination of candidates for South Staffordshire took place on Wednesday last, at Lichfield. Part of the proceedings were as follows:—

Mr. Wright: Will you vote for the abolition of church-rates?

Lord Ingestre: I think that as long as the Established Church exists there must be church-rates; if you can show me any substitute I shall be glad to dispense with them, so that the establishment is not injured.

Mr. Wright: Will you vote for the five pound franchise or the ballot?

Lord Ingestre: Certainly not. (Hisses and uproar.)

Mr. John Williams: Is Lord Paget in favour of vote by ballot?

Lord Paget: I am. (Cheers.)

Mr. Williams: Are you in favour of the five pound franchise in boroughs?

Lord Paget: If any proposition to that effect is brought forward by her Majesty's Ministers, I shall give it my support. (Cheers.)

Mr. Williams: Are you in favour of the abolition of church-rates?

Lord Paget: I shall vote for any measure to abolish church-rates. (Cheers.) As a Churchman I should be sorry to see the church fall into decay; but I consider that there are funds in the Church—I mean Church property—which might be applied to its maintenance. (Cheers.)

A show of hands was taken; the under-sheriff declared it to be in favour of Lord Paget—in fact, it was three to one in favour of his lordship. The polling took place on Saturday, when Lord Paget was returned by a large majority—the numbers being, Paget, 4,328; Ingestre, 2,769. One remarkable feature in connexion

with this election is that, with a constituency one-third larger, Lord Ingestre has not, by some hundreds, polled as many votes as his father did nearly twenty years ago. The cause of Lord Ingestre was undoubtedly prejudiced by the former obstinate opposition of his father to the repeal of the corn-laws, and the determined manner in which the friends of Lord Paget charged the same opinions upon the son. Lord Ingestre might repudiate them; but it was of no avail with the multitude who possess votes in South Staffordshire. There is no question that the triumph of the Government candidate is to be attributed, in a great degree, to the great increase of voters belonging to the freehold land societies, and the support which, on this occasion, was for the first time exercised by Lord Ward in support of what is termed the Liberal candidate. His lordship was not, however, the only influential seceder from the old Tory or Conservative ranks.

Mr. John Lloyd Vaughan Watkins has been elected without opposition for Bresson. In the absence of opposition on this occasion there was no excitement in the town, but considerable attention was attracted to the question of vote by ballot, by a liberal distribution of tracts and addresses on the subject set on foot by a deputation from the Ballot Association, who had visited the town a week previously, and was in attendance at the nomination. Every favourable allusion to the subject was hailed with enthusiastic cheering, while the arguments put forth in opposition to the ballot were received with cold silence and demonstrations of dissent.

Mr. Wyndham was returned for West Sussex on Monday without opposition. Mr. Whitehurst, secretary to the Ballot Society, was nominated for the purpose of making a speech, and afterwards withdrawn. The entire proceedings occupied but little time, the election being apparently only a matter of form, Mr. Wyndham having been some years since selected as the representative of the division by the three chief families in the county named; Mr. Prime, the late member, merely going into Parliament as a stopgap until the member elected on Monday should arrive at years of discretion.

It is stated that, in consequence of ill health, Lord Charles Wellesley will resign his seat for Windsor. To supply the vacancy, the Liberals look to Mr. Samson Ricardo, of Totness Park, who unsuccessfully contested the borough at the general election. On the other hand, the Conservatives are anxious to return Mr. Arthur Vansittart.

Mr. W. E. Powell, M.P. for Cardigan county, has resigned his seat.

Court, Personal, and Political News.

Amongst the guests at Windsor Castle during the last week have been Lord Aberdeen, the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, the Prussian Minister and Madame Bunsen, and Professor Sedgwick. The fourteenth anniversary of her Majesty's wedding was celebrated on Friday. In the evening the Queen entertained a distinguished party. A performance of choral music was given in the evening in St. George's hall by an orchestra of one hundred and thirty performers. The solo vocalists were Miss Louisa Pyne, Mrs. Lockey, Mr. Lockey, and Signor Belletti. A portrait of the Emperor of the French has been submitted by Mr. J. G. Middleton for the inspection of the Queen. On Monday afternoon the Court returned to Buckingham Palace.

The equestrian statuette of the Queen, by Mr. Thornercroft, which was submitted to her Majesty and the Prince last week, and elicited warm commendation, is being executed for the Art Union of London in bronze for prizes.

Cabinet Councils were held on Wednesday and on Saturday afternoon at the Foreign Office. On the last occasion the Earl of Clarendon arrived in town at half-past three o'clock from Windsor Castle, and joined his colleagues at the Foreign Office. The Council sat three hours and a half.

The right hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons gave his first full dress parliamentary dinner on Saturday evening, at the right hon. gentleman's official residence in Eaton-square. The guests consisted exclusively of members of the Government.

The Earl of Derby had a parliamentary dinner party on Saturday at his mansion in St. James's-square. Yesterday week the Earl of Derby had a gathering of the Conservative members of the House of Commons at his residence. The attendance was very numerous, and the noble Earl addressed the assembly in a speech of considerable length and with his usual vigour. His Lordship dwelt at considerable length on the necessity for a cordial union amongst the members of the party—a sentiment which was warmly greeted. Mr. Disraeli was not amongst the guests.

Viscountess Palmerston entertained at dinner on Saturday evening his Excellency the Sardinian Minister, the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury, Viscount and Viscountess Jocelyn, Lord Dufferin, Sir William Temple, Hon. Mrs. Sidney Herbert, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and others. The noble Viscountess received a very numerous circle after dinner.

Sir William and Lady Molesworth entertained at dinner on Saturday the Earl of Aberdeen and a distinguished party of friends.

Viscount and Viscountess Canning entertained the Marquis of Lansdowne and a large party, at dinner, on Saturday, at their mansion in Grosvenor-square.

The following announcement has provoked the criticism of the *Daily News*:—"Earl Granville, the Lord President, entertained Lord Aberdeen, the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Glenelg, the Marchioness of Ailesbury, Mr. George Cornwall and Lady Theresa Lewis, Mr. Bright, M.P., and Mr. Calcraft, at dinner on Wednesday evening." It must have been charming (says our contemporary) to see Mr. Bright and the Bishop

of Oxford hob-nobbing while Lord Aberdeen looked blandly on. The Rev. Mr. Cumming is right: the millennium must be drawing near. The hero of "the great Gorham case"—the fierce denouncer of Catholic emancipation—the ultra-asserter of episcopal supremacy—must have felt queerish between the *Adas*, *Achates* of Peel and the Voluntary M.P.

Garibaldi has arrived in London, in command of a merchant ship from the United States.

The *Morning Chronicle* asserts positively that Cardinal Wiseman will not return to England from Rome.

Lord Dudley Stuart has returned from Turkey. On Thursday he visited Prince Czartoryski at Paris. He has since arrived in London, and had interviews with several members of the ministry.

The *Tablet* has reason to believe that Dr. Newman, the "illustrious President of the Catholic University in Ireland," will shortly be raised to the dignity of bishop *in partibus*.

The whole subject of national education in Ireland will probably be referred to a committee of the House of Lords in the present session of Parliament:—*Observer*.

It has been intimated that the Government measure on University Reform will be introduced into the House on, or very shortly after, the 20th. The University authorities are beginning, at the eleventh hour, to bestir themselves, and to pay a little more respect to the recommendations of the commissioners. Schemes for remodelling the constitution are being handed about.

A deputation from the Commissioners for Paving and Improving St. James's, Westminster, attended by Sir John Shelley, M.P., and Sir De Lacy Evans, M.P., waited upon Lord Palmerston on Friday with reference to the present abuses in the police force of the metropolis. From a report read, it appears that the police expenditure for the metropolis now amounts to about half a million annually; and, according to the statement of Sir R. Mayne, "the entire responsibility rests, as it ought to do, with the commissioners." The deputation urged an inquiry into the grievances, on the ground that no investigation had been made for twenty-one years. Since that time the cost of the police force had been doubled, although crime had diminished, and the population had only increased about one-half. In St. James's parish the police rate had been raised since 1845 from £4,512 per annum to £10,548 per annum, and yet a policeman (as in Mr. Gladstone's case) was never to be found when he was wanted. The number of vagrants had considerably increased, and many of the force received bribes from bad characters not to molest them. Lord Palmerston said that the report should receive his earnest attention. The inequalities of the charge upon the different metropolitan districts which had been referred to was owing to the laws with reference to the assessments, but the matter should have his consideration. The conference lasted about an hour and a half.

Last session, Lord Brougham introduced a bill into the House of Peers to assimilate the Bankruptcy laws of England and Scotland. The committee of merchants, desirous of perfecting the assimilation of the commercial laws of the two countries, have not been idle; and it is understood that a bill is about to be introduced into Parliament for the extension to England of the Scottish system of recovering by summary procedure on bills of exchange. By that cheap and speedy method of recovering payment, the holder is enabled, without bringing an action, to sign judgment when the bill is dishonoured, and after six days' notice to issue execution. Nor is the debtor allowed to dispute the bill until he finds two sufficient sureties for debt and costs; and not even then, unless he can satisfy a judge, at the outset, that he has *prima facie* reasonable and honest grounds for refusing payment.

The report of the Hull Commission of inquiry into the corruption of that borough contains a mass of proofs of bribery. It has prevailed at every election. In 1841, each party paid 600 or 700 voters; in 1847, 1,200 were bribed; in 1852, out of the 3,983 who voted 1,400 were bribed. Out of 1,500 freemen, 1,100 were bribed once at least, many more than once. Nor are the occupiers clear. The cost of the last three elections was nearly £27,000 to the candidates—nearly £9,000 for each election. The cost of the last election was £9,226; of which there was paid for cabs £354; colours, £300; to printers, £1,096; legal agents, £2,066; while the money expended directly on the voters amounted to £3,543—£3,000 being paid as for wages to runners.

The report of the Barnstable Commissioners shows similar results. In 1852, out of 696 who polled, 255 were bribed. The corruption is not confined to the poorer voters, but extends to "men whose position ought to have placed them beyond the reach of corrupt influences."

We have the promise of a reform in the law of wills. The commissioners appointed to inquire into the process, practice, and system of pleading in the Court of Chancery, and the law and jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical and other courts in relation to matters testamentary, have just presented their second report. It forms a blue book of 151 pages. It recommends that the testamentary jurisdiction of all the ecclesiastical courts of jurisdiction should be abolished, and that the jurisdiction should be exercised by a single court. With respect to bequests, it has been the custom that, as to personal estate, after a will has been subject to strict examination in the Ecclesiastical Court, the title of an executor should not be disputed or questioned in any other court; but as to real estate, the title of a devisee, even when not questioned by the heir, is generally open to question in any action or suit which he may be compelled to bring against third parties. The great advantage of conclusive letters of probate in the case of personal estate is proposed to be transferred to devisees of real estate. The new court recommended by the commissioners, they would call Her Majesty's Court of Probate, to be presided over by one judge;

but it is understood that the Court of Chancery (and not a new court) will have the charge of this business. The commissioners recommend that the non-contentious or common form business should be as now confined to a competent number of proctors appointed by authority, but that the court in contentious business should be thrown open to solicitors. District offices are recommended, where letters of probate may be obtained in certain cases. Wills may remain if necessary in these offices for a limited time, but are ultimately to be sent up to London. It is understood that the registrar of births and deaths will have the care of wills in future. Indexes are to be deposited in the district offices corresponding with the index in London, so that searches may be made in the country without the necessity of resorting to London.

The *Gazette* of Friday night announces the appointment of Mr. Philip Edmund Wodehouse, sometime Superintendent at Honduras, as Governor of British Guiana.

Mr. Henry Kingscote is appointed secretary to the Cathedral Commission, in the room of the Rev. A. Jones, now one of the Commissioners of Charitable Trusts.

Law and Police.

A case of some importance, *Gilpin v. Fowler*, connected with the law of libel, was tried in the Exchequer Chambers sitting in Error on Thursday last. The plaintiff (*Gilpin*) had been master of a National school at Crawley, and had been dismissed by the school committee, ostensibly because it was thought desirable to place the Sunday and Day-schools under one and the same superintendence. Mr. *Gilpin* had been applied to by the clergyman to conduct the Sunday-School, but had refused to do so. "Hence, the vote of the school committee and the dismissal of the schoolmaster." Feeling himself aggrieved, Mr. *Gilpin* determined to open a new school in the parish; and upon this the defendant (*Fowler*) addressed and sent to his parishioners a circular letter, warning them against the projected new school, as a schismatical school, and declaring that those who should aid and abet the schoolmaster in any way, "would be partakers with him in his evil deeds;" clenching the declaration with citing Rom. xvi. 17. The case was tried before the Chief Baron, who refused to let the case go to a jury, on the ground that the letter constituting the libel was a privileged communication. The Court, on Thursday, ruled, that it was not a privileged communication, and that there was evidence of malice to be left to the jury. This is a decision of great public interest, as, unlike most actions for libel, a very important general principle was involved in the issue.

The "W. B." case has come to a premature conclusion. In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, Major Beresford and ten other persons were formally indicted for conspiring to corrupt and bribe the electors of the borough of Derby at the election in July, 1853. Our readers will easily call to mind the points of this well-known case. Morgan, a person sent by William Frail of Shrewsbury, was arrested in a room in the County Tavern in Derby; and on him was found a large sum of money, and a letter signed "W. B.," that is, "William Beresford." Mr. Edwin James stated the facts on behalf of the prosecution. The present indictment had been rendered necessary to meet the accusation that these proceedings originated in a conspiracy got up by the Liberal party. But now, inasmuch as it was believed that the exposure which had already taken place would prevent the recurrence of such proceedings at Derby, and those who had made the charge that the Liberal party had entered into the conspiracy alleged had withdrawn the charge, Mr. James did not intend, on behalf of the prosecution, to offer any evidence in support of the indictment. Accordingly, the jury, under the direction of Lord Chief Justice Campbell, returned a verdict of "Not guilty." Sir Frederick Theiger then made a statement, in justice to Mr. Beresford and himself, to the effect that Mr. Beresford had not compromised the matter—nothing on earth would have moved him to compromise it; and that he had come there, from a bed of sickness, claiming inquiry and ready to meet the charge. Mr. James said, that no compromise, direct or indirect, had been entered into. Lord Campbell said, that but for these assurances there might have been a suspicion in the public mind that some corrupt compromise had been made; but that suspicion had now been repelled. He was also bound to say that Mr. Beresford had repelled the charge made against him, and had brought the case on for trial; and now it must be considered that there was no evidence to support the charge.

At the Middlesex Sessions, John Horton, a lad of fifteen, has been convicted of stealing a watch from Mr. Jones. Horton was connected with a gang of young fellows who adopt a novel system of robbery in London. One of the gang exhibits a guinea-pig, a starling, and a squirrel, tied by the leg, upon the pavement. A wondering crowd collects, and then the other thieves begin their work. The convict was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

A thief has escaped scot-free owing to the objection of the person robbed to take an oath. George Brooks purloined a book belonging to Mr. Truelove, a bookseller in the Strand. At Bow-street police-office, Mr. Truelove offered to make an "affirmation," but declined to be sworn. He thought he was entitled to make an affirmation by some recent law. He objected to an oath, not on some particular religious ground, but from a non-religious feeling—he professed no religion. Mr. Jardine told him he could only give evidence on oath. Mr. Truelove pointed out that an abandoned prostitute had just taken an oath and obtained redress by it; yet he was refused justice because he conscientiously objected to swear. Mr. Jardine remarked, that the woman, though a prostitute,

might have some religious belief. The upshot was, that Brooks was liberated; but he voluntarily gave up the book to Mr. Truelove.

From proceedings before the Worship-street magistrate, it appears that the Commissioners of Police have issued a book of fares, legally binding on cabmen, which is incorrect. The cab-owners allege that it is wrong in various instances; but they proved one special case very clearly. The book states that the distance from Cremorne Gardens to the Eastern Counties Railway is under four miles, and the fare 2s.; in fact, the distance is over six miles, and the fare 3s. 6d. The magistrate decided that the cabman was entitled to 3s. 6d. Mr. D'Eyncourt stated that he had communicated with the Commissioners of Police, and the error in the book was to be corrected.

Accidents and Quences.

A horrible affair has occurred near Bantry. The remains of Mrs. Sullivan, wife of a farmer in the vicinity, were found in a field, the bones of the body and limbs stripped of the flesh. Mrs. Sullivan from some cause had fallen helpless in the field, and a number of starving dogs had set upon and devoured her. The dogs in the locality are a nuisance and terror to the inhabitants.

A child, fifteen months old, has died in Dublin from an attack by rats. They got into the cradle at night, bit the child in several places, and ate away half of the inside of one of the arms.

A little boy died in great agony a few days ago, at Harton, a village in Durham, from hydrophobia, produced by the bite of an infuriated cat. He was bitten in November last.

Five lives were lost at the Brierly Hill iron-works, near Stourbridge, on Wednesday last, by the bursting of a boiler. The boiler was blown nearly 100 feet into the air. The boiler was half an inch thick when it burst, but a little the worse for wear. It had been at work for about 14 years, and was repaired last October. It burst just where the repairs had been done.

The ninth victim to the terrible fire in Soho last week expired in Charing-cross Hospital on Friday night. The death of this poor man completes the unprecedented number of six persons of one family burnt in a fire which might have been extinguished with a few buckets of water, had proper precautions been observed by those who first left the premises after the discovery of the outbreak.

On Sunday, a Mr. Mott, living at Camberwell, was found in one of his rooms lying upon his face on the ground quite dead, with his head hanging over the fender. By his side lay a bottle containing gin; and from his position it was evident that he had fallen while in a state of intoxication, and his neck coming in contact with the fender, had caused his death. In his pockets were found gold and silver to the amount of £18 15s. The sister of the deceased was also found dead in the same house some months back, with a bottle of gin likewise by her side.

On Monday evening nearly the whole of Clausen's patent flax, hemp, and jute company's mills, at Bromley, near Bow, were consumed by fire.

Accounts have been received of the loss of the *Hannah Maria*, *Drew master*, and the *Osmanli* (s.s.), on the southern coast of Australia, with emigrants. In both cases the crew and passengers were safely landed. The *Agnes*, a fine new brig, sailed from Dundee for Melbourne, on the 25th ult., and encountered a terrific gale off the Orkney Islands. On the 29th she struck heavily on the rocks of Sealakeary, the crew and passengers were in a most pitiable state, the sea washing over them during the night, until rescued by some fishermen the next day.

A mail robbery, involving the loss of three hundred letters, some of them of value, had occurred to the mail cart driver on the "out ride" to Hampstead. A man asked him to give him a ride to Islington. The driver, in defiance of his instructions, consented, and the party mounted and rode by his side. Upon reaching a public house, near the receiving-office, the man asked Mansfield to drink, and he had a glass of rum. Immediately afterwards Mansfield felt himself stupefied, the man being again with him on the box. The driver recollected calling at one other place afterwards, namely, Somers-town, and that he took up a bag there at the office. After that he had no further recollection of what he did or what became of himself, his charge, or his companion, until he found himself in the station-house at Featherstone-street, near the City-road. A gentleman named Morley observed the driver lying in a state of unconsciousness. When the policeman arrived, they found the cart in a yard, a large number of newspapers scattered about, and the mail-bags out to pieces.

Miscellaneous News.

By Prince Albert's directions, twelve cottages have been erected in Windsor Park, near Lakin's Gate. They are intended for the labourers employed in the Park, who at present pay high rents for distant cottages, but for about 2s. a week they will have one of the new and convenient cottages with a large garden. The buildings are described as of substantial or even elegant appearance outwardly, and comfortable within.

The *Caledonian Mercury* says, the Duke of Hamilton, with the assistance of the law, has compelled the Roman Catholic church at Hamilton to restore to him certain precious pieces of plate, family heir-looms, presented to the church by the Duchess. The Duke desires the statement.

It is estimated that 37,000,000 tons of coal are raised yearly in Great Britain, of the value at the pit's mouth of \$10,000,000. The capital employed in the trade

exceeds £10,000,000, and 120,000 persons are employed at the mines.

Dr. Layard, M.P., was on Thursday presented with the citizenship of the London Corporation at Guildhall. Sir John Key the Chamberlain, read the resolution and then adverted in a complimentary manner to the labours of Mr. Layard in Assyria. Mr. Layard replied in a short speech:—

"Doubtless," he said, "If I had undertaken these excavations and researches with no other end than that of gratifying an idle curiosity, or an ordinary spirit of enterprise, I should be utterly unworthy of the honour you have shown me. I trust they were embarked on for a higher motive. Archaeology, if pursued in a truly liberal spirit, becomes of the utmost importance, as illustrating the history of mankind. (Great applause.) I confess that sanguine as I was as to the results of my researches amongst the ruins on the Tigris and Euphrates, I could not, nor, indeed, probably could any human being, have anticipated the results which they produced. I do not say this in self-praise. I consider myself but as an humble agent, whose good fortune it has been to labour successfully in bringing about those results. I could not doubt that every spadefull of earth which was removed from these vast remains would tend to confirm the truth of prophecy, and to illustrate the meaning of Scripture. But who could have believed that records themselves should have been found, which, as to the minuteness of their details and the wonderful accuracy of their statements, should confirm, almost word for word, the very text of Scripture? (Great cheering.) And remember that these were no fabrications of a later date in monuments centuries after the deeds which they professed to relate had taken place, but records engraved by those who had actually taken part in them."

In the evening the Lord Mayor gave a dinner at the Mansion House, in honour of Mr. Layard, to which a select party, including several members of Parliament, was invited.

As soon as the present leases expire, many of the Duke of Sutherland's large sheep farms in Scotland are to be broken up into moderate-sized possessions. His grace, it is said, has discovered that the large farm system, when carried too far, is neither profitable to the landlord, nor beneficial to the country.

The half yearly meeting of the members of the Whittington Club was held at the club-house, Arundel-street, Strand, on Monday evening, Mr. Mechi, a staunch friend of the institution, in the chair. The chairman congratulated the members upon the club's greatly improved condition and prospects since the previous half yearly meeting. The report of the committee was of an unusually favourable character, and the balance-sheet, the main test of prosperity, showed a balance on the right side. The committee had had to contend with difficulties of no ordinary nature, but they had commenced their task with a spirit of self-reliance and a determination to succeed, which was the true secret of success. By continued exertions they had succeeded in placing the affairs of the institution in a prosperous condition, and exhibiting, as it did, the advantages of co-operation, it bid fair to become, as it deserved to be, a distinguished feature of the metropolis. After the reception of the report the election of officers took place, Mr. Mechi being elected president for the ensuing year.

The officers and passengers of the Temperance ship California, on completing the voyage to Australia in October last, in health and comfort, without the use of alcoholic drinks (except for medical purposes), signed a declaration of their conviction that it would materially conduce to the safety, welfare, and comfort of emigrants if the voyages were conducted upon that principle.

Mr. W. P. Talbot informs the public, through the *Times*, of the present state of the Wellington College project. The total amount of subscriptions promised is £105,000; of these £87,354 have been paid.

A few days since, a woman named Saunders, the wife of a watchman in the employ of the Eastern Counties Railway Company, living on the Barrack-ground, Romford, gave birth to three children, two of whom are quite perfect, the other is minus a leg and an arm. They are all healthy children, and with the mother are doing "as well as can be expected."

According to a return obtained by Mr. Pellatt, M.P., (printed on Saturday) there were in England and Wales, up to August last, 1,371 pupil teachers who had completed their term of apprenticeship under minutes of the Committee of Council on Education. Of the number, 942 were males and 429 females.

A correspondent of the *Durham Advertiser* says, that the Rev. Peter Barlow, incumbent of Cockfield, has given so much offence to several of his parishioners by wearing his beard, that they have discontinued their attendance at church!

The proceedings before the Commissioners for inquiring into the Corporation of London are not concluded, though of subsidiary interest. Witnesses are still heard in defence of the Corporation. On Thursday last, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Wire gave evidence respecting the office of sheriff. He thought the appointment should be made by the common council. The expenses of the office of sheriff were never less than £2,500 a-year, and often more. The under-sheriff of Middlesex is appointed by the sheriff annually, but the duties of the under-sheriff of London are performed by the Secondary. It would, he thought, be an advantage if the duties of sheriff of Middlesex were transferred wholly to the under-sheriff. The emoluments of the office of under-sheriff, when he held the office, were about £1,000 a-year. The Commissioners adjourned to this day (Wednesday).

A blue book was published last week, giving statistics of the number of children born in one year in England and Wales as 578,150, and disclosing the appalling fact, that of these no fewer than 30,334 were illegitimate, or 1 to 14. The number is pretty equally distributed over the whole country.

The return of railway accidents has been made up for the first half of the year 1853. The number of passengers during the half-year was 45,083,316, and 24 of them were killed, and 121 injured, 14 of the deaths

and 7 of the cases of injury being caused by the parties' own misconduct or want of caution. Including servants of the companies, trespassers, contractors' men, and one suicide, 148 persons were killed and 191 injured. There were 14 collisions, in which 5 passengers were killed and 82 injured; 9 passenger trains got off the rails, and 3 passengers were killed and 27 injured; in four cases the axle or a wheel of a passenger train engine broke and two passengers were injured; in two cases an axle or wheel of a passenger train carriage broke, and three passengers were injured. Among the deaths we find more than one caused by getting out of a carriage in motion.

A Jew named Cohen, who followed the trade of a pencilmaker, and who had been a resident of Dublin as long as the memory of the "oldest inhabitant" can be taxed, died about three weeks since at the obscure house on the outskirts of the city in which for so many years he plied his business. Although living, to all outward appearances, in a state of wretchedness to which the case of old Elwes is the nearest parallel, he has left money which, it is believed will prove to be not under, if not above, £60,000. With the exception of some trifling annuities to two poor relatives in England, and another of £100 a-year to the Jewish congregation in Dublin, the whole of the property is bequeathed to the Hebrew charitable institutions of London. A brother of Baron Rothschild is the executor to the will.

The Senior Wrangler of Cambridge for the present year, Mr. Edward John Rowth, is also a graduate of the University of London. He obtained the gold medal at the M.A. Examination in that University, in the department of mathematics and natural philosophy, in June last. He is the second student of University College who, after obtaining the highest mathematical honours in the London University, has entered at Cambridge, and secured the Senior Wranglership. Mr. Isaac Todhunter having acquired the same distinction about five years since.

Tapner, the Guernsey murderer, was hanged in that island on Friday last, inside the gaol. He was exposed while on the scaffold, but, when turned off, he was hidden from the gaze of the multitude without the walls. It is twenty-two years since there was an execution in Guernsey. It was rumoured that he had confessed to murders and misdeeds before the commission of his last crime, and that the confession would be made public.

The Council of the Photographic Society have resolved on throwing open their exhibition in Suffolk-street, during the evenings of the last fortnight in February to artisans, at 3d. each.

Lord Portman, of Bayanston House, Blandford, is selling out to the labourers on his estate the 4lb loaf at sixpence, as a mitigation of the present pressure on the poor.

The *Scottish Press* vouches for the authenticity of the following on-dit:—"When, the daughter of the Emperor Nicholas was lately in this country, she was spoken to on the probable results as to peace or war, when she remarked that her father considered himself an instrument in the hand of Heaven for rearing a new kingdom upon the ruins of the doomed Turkish empire."

The *Times* the other day, in speaking of the operations of the Turkish army in Asia, called General Guyon (Kerschid Pacha) a "relegade." His brother-in-law has written a letter denying the impeachment. The general entered the Turkish service with the expressly-declared condition that he should not change his religion.

Mr. Vincent last week delivered two lectures at Faversham. On Wednesday, the conservative mayor presided; and on Thursday, several clergymen were present, the ex-mayor in the chair. The last meeting, says the *Greenwich Observer*, was the largest and most respectable ever held in the town; Mr. Vincent's reception was most enthusiastic, and his oration created a powerful impression upon all. Mr. Vincent has also addressed two crowded audiences in the Town Hall at High Wycombe, Bucks; and two at Crosby Hall, London; and this week delivered the first two lectures on the Commonwealth, at De Beauvoir Chapel, Kingsland-road, presided over by Mr. Sheriff Wire and Charles Gilpin. The chapel was filled by attentive and enthusiastic audiences. The lectures are continued on Tuesday and Thursday of this and next week.

Literature.

PERIODICALS (CONTINUED).

THE numbers for January of "The Journal of Sacred Literature," and the "Bibliotheca Sacra," did not reach us in time to be noticed with the other periodicals of the month, but claim to be now noticed with something more than usual fulness.

The Journal of Sacred Literature—(Blackader) lately edited by Dr. Kitto, and now conducted by the Rev. Dr. Burgess, known as the translator of "The Metrical Hymns of Ephraem Syrus"—is the only quarterly in this country specially devoted to Biblical studies. It has deserved well of all students, and has conferred great service on ministers especially. Its articles are generally able and learned, on important subjects, and orthodox in theological opinion. In the present number there are several valuable papers, critical, expository, and polemical. One on "Maurice's Essays—a Plea for the Old Theology," is not satisfactory to us, even if its own fundamental positions be conceded: it is weak in argument, deficient in comprehension of the whole scope of Mr. Maurice's views, and maintains two doubtful positions—that, although the "English

Bible" is "far from perfect," we ought to "avoid any unnecessary parade of this fact before common minds,"—and that "the belief of the Church professedly founded on the Holy Scriptures" is necessary to the interpretation of Christian doctrine. An article on "The Sources of the Received Text of the Greek Testament," defends the *Textus Receptus* against the depreciatory criticisms of modern scholars; charges Tischendorf with "arbitrary alterations" of this text; and contends that it is "substantially a good text, founded on right principles." We confess that we are ourselves heretical on this matter, and side with Griesbach, Davidson, Tregelles, and others, by whom this text is assailed. A very interesting paper on "The Antediluvian Theocracy," maintains that when, after the birth of Enos, the son of Seth, "men began to call on the name of Jehovah," these worshippers formed a "chosen people, isolated and sealed;" and that the marriages of "the sons of God with the daughters of men" were the alliances of this chosen people with the Cainites, and that this practical renunciation of the privileges of the "antediluvian theocracy" for "wealth and sensual gratification" was an "apostasy from Jehovah," which became "the chief moral cause of the flood." Perhaps the principal attraction of this number to the general reader, will be an Essay by M. Guizot—translated from his "Méditations et Etudes Morales"—on the question, "What is the true meaning of the word Faith?" It is a suggestive essay, full of profound and beautiful thoughts, bearing light to the sincere inquirer and to the Christian teacher. It is not, however, translated with all the precision and elegance we could desire. There are also learned articles on "The Armenian Translation of Eusebius;" on "The Birth and Infancy of Jesus"—a critical examination of the first two chapters of Matthew; "Critical Remarks on the Prayer of Hezekiah;" and some others of minor importance. A great feature of this Journal is its "Intelligence," which furnishes information respecting biblical, scientific, and literary pursuits and publications, in all parts of the world. It is a very valuable and interesting department of the work; and is sufficient to keep a man, even in the obscurest corner, along-side of the movements of literature, and to acquaint him with the latest sources of information for his special studies.

The *Bibliotheca Sacra*, and *American Biblical Repository*, is henceforth to be published in London, by Trubner and Co., simultaneously with its appearance in America; and an English copyright is secured. The price, 3s. 6d., is the most reasonable ever affixed to a work of such pretensions and worth. The editors, Professors Park and Taylor, of Andover, announce the "special co-operation" of Dr. Davidson and Dr. Lindsay Alexander, of this country, as well as that of Dr. Edward Robinson and others at home. As it thus makes something like a new start—and we have never been called on to notice it before—we shall let the editors make their own plea for public support:—

"It embraces theology in its widest acceptance, as comprehending the literature of the Scriptures, Biblical criticism, natural and revealed theology, church history, with the history of the Christian doctrines, and sacred rhetoric; classical literature is regarded in as far as it tends to the illustration, and aid of the fuller discussion of these subjects."

"Questions of mental and moral philosophy are also discussed, partly on account of their bearing on theology, and partly for the sake of the intrinsic value of the questions themselves."

"Every number contains, at least, two or three articles explanatory or illustrative of the Scriptures, either direct expositions of the text, or discussions in the rich field of Biblical criticism. Particular facilities in this department are derived from American missionaries resident in Syria and Western Asia, and by travellers in the East."

"The more abstract discussions are enlivened by occasional pieces of biography."

"Removed, on the one hand, from the dogmatism of a sectarian habit, and on the other from that indefinite and daring 'spiritualism' which affects to ignore the acknowledged conditions of human belief, and the natural limitations of the human mind, it defends and encourages the freest inquiry on every subject which admits of question; whilst it adopts and maintains the 'evangelical' interpretation of the facts of Christianity, and the 'evangelical' solution of the moral problems arising out of human history and experience, as alone consistent with the principles of a sound philosophy, and the dictates of common sense."

To this number we can only further give the space necessary for the enumeration of its principal articles:—"Rhetoric Determined and Applied," by Dr. Hickok, the author of two of the most valuable works in modern philosophy—"Rational Psychology" and "Moral Science;" the completion of an examination of "Phrenology," by Dr. Enoch Pond—showing that its fundamental principles are not to be relied on, and that in its social, moral, and religious bearings, it is uniformly injurious; "Man and his Food," a capital paper by Dr. Withington; and a very interesting "Excursion to the Summit of Hermon," by Rev. J. L. Porter, a resident at Damascus, which contains many new facts, and corrects the statements and observations of previous travellers. Perhaps the best indication of our opinion of this excellent periodical will be to say, that we have been its "constant readers" ever since its commencement in 1843.

A serial—not a periodical, in the common sense—is before us, the many admirable features of which demand that its progress be reported. We

refer to Mr. Blackader's "*English Bible*," which has reached the second part, containing Exodus and Leviticus. It will scarcely be requisite to say more than that its new division into paragraphs is most intelligently done; its introductions to the several books are concise and judicious; its marginal notes are excellently selected, and always really illustrative. The "Appendix of Notes" is henceforth to be issued separately; that purchasers may be free to take the text with its marginal notes only, or both parts of the work; and that time may be gained for making the Appendix a repository of "such thorough and exhaustive criticism" as the age demands. It is by far the noblest attempt at an edition of our Authorized Version—with the variations of ancient versions and the results of modern criticism, as a sort of condensed running commentary—that has ever been made.

A Defence of "The Eclipse of Faith." By Irs AUTHOR. Being a Rejoinder to Professor Newman's "Reply." London: Longman and Co.

It will be admitted that it is at any time difficult to give an account of a *rejoinder* to a *reply*, unless the parties addressed are, equally with the person talking to them, acquainted familiarly with the reply in question, and with the work by which it was called forth. In the case of this "Defence of the Eclipse of Faith" the difficulty is unusually great; for it would require large references to Mr. Newman's "Soul" and "Phases," to "The Eclipse" itself, and then to Mr. Newman's "Reply," to render its statements intelligible and to make evident its merits and the full force of its reasonings. It is only possible, therefore, for us to select a few points, needing little explanation, on which the author may be allowed to speak for himself.

We will presume our readers to know something of Mr. Newman's "Reply"—of which we do not hesitate to say, that its deficiency in self-possession and gentlemanly temper, can be matched only by its lack of logic and good sense. It will be remembered that Mr. Newman—in common with a critic in the *Prospective Review*, affects to doubt whether "The Eclipse of Faith" be not really an infidel publication in disguise, and its author a secret atheist, or at least, a believer only in an "unmoral Deity." Now not only is the contrary most certain from the book itself, but we have not the slightest doubt that both Mr. Newman and the reviewer in question, know perfectly well who is the author of the "Eclipse"—for though anonymous, he has not succeeded in remaining unknown—and that he is an orthodox Christian, of eminent position, proved character, and public reputation. What, then, shall we call this affectation of doubt as to his true character and designs?—a trick, a dodge, a hypocritical pretence, in order to gain an unfair advantage, and to produce, if possible, a damaging impression. In all the controversy of which we have any personal or indirect knowledge, we remember nothing so manifestly insincere and dishonest as this.

To this insinuation a complaint has been added, that the author of the "Eclipse" has written flippantly, profanely, and altogether in a spirit uncharitable and unbecoming. We did not, ourselves, always approve the *banter* of Harrington; but we were not so stupid as to forget that Harrington represents a particular antagonist—a sceptic—and speaks as a sceptic might, from his own stand-point. To confound the author's views with Harrington's positions, or with his use of the "*reductio ad absurdum* from Mr. Newman's own premises," was a blunder which the author may well call "ludicrous," if it were not a part of the trick we have already condemned. But as to the tone of his work, the author shall defend himself:—

"Mr. Newman has said more in one chapter in this new edition of the 'Phases'—to say nothing of his 'Soul,' and nothing of his 'Hebrew Monarchy'—to wound and shock the religious feelings of his countrymen—to jar their inmost sense of all that is most sacred—than any other writer of his day. Yet no sooner does any one proceed to expose his own religious system, which seems so unreasonable to the world that probably not twenty people in it would profess adherence to it, than he looks grave, and protests against levity in the treatment of sacred things. I must answer like Pascal, when the Jesuits brought against him a similar charge, that 'I am far enough from ridiculing sacred things, in ridiculing such notions.'

"Mr. Newman warns me with much solemnity against thinking that 'questions pertaining to God are advanced by boisterous glee.' I do not think the 'Eclipse' is characterised by 'boisterous glee'; and certainly I was not at all aware that the things which alone I have ridiculed—some of them advanced by him, and some by others—deserved to be treated with solemnity. For example, that an authoritative external revelation, which most people have thought possible enough, is impossible—that man is most likely born for a dog's life, and 'there an end'—that there are great defects in the morality of the New Testament, and much imperfection in the character of its Founder—that the miracles of Christ might be real, because Christ was a clairvoyant and a mesmerist—that God was not a person, but a personality;—I say, I was not at all aware that these things, and such as these, which alone I have ridiculed, were questions 'pertaining to God,' in any other sense than the wildest hypotheses in some sense 'pertain' to science, and the grossest heresies to religion. Again: in theory, nothing can be more delightful than Mr. Newman's charity—in practice, nothing more grotesque. He is full of fierce anathemas against bigotry, and declaims most passionately on behalf of charity and loving-kindness. In the 'Eclipse of Faith,' I, with my poor 'Pagan' notions of mo-

rality—so he is pleased to consider them—carefully abstained from questioning the *sincerity* of his motives; for I had nothing to do with his motives—I had to do with his arguments. These I exposed, and sometimes ridiculed; I acknowledge it with becoming impenitence; I shall repeat the offence, if offence it be; and I am prepared to justify my conduct. What course does Mr. Newman take? While enjoining charity, deprecating 'personal antagonisms,' and talking in a most edifying strain about opening 'the mind to truth and the heart to love,' he indulges in the most acrimonious imputations of 'blasphemy,' 'dishonesty,' 'stealthy misrepresentations,' 'gross garbling,' 'dealing unscrupulously,' and I know not what. . . . As one contrasts Mr. Newman's loving injunctions with his invectives, one seems to be transported into a world where the usual symbols of emotion are all inverted, where men frown in pure benevolence, and gnash their teeth in loving-kindness and charity."

To this we will add part of a note, taken from a subsequent page:—

"He [Mr. N.] should remember, in charging his opponents with unworthy motives in defending any opinions he once held, how easy it would be for them to retort upon him. The opinions he now impugns, he once held and defended; and the fragments of the theories he has rejected, strew the whole way through the 'Phases,' like the baggage of a flying army. Did he not once believe Mark inspired? Did he not once hold the Bible all true, which, he says, can only be defended by the 'crooked' and immoral subterfuges which he charges on what he calls Bibliolatry? Did it never occur to him, too, that his opponents might ask him, on his so lightly charging them with 'dishonesty' for still holding what he once held—'Pray, Mr. Newman, will you answer us this plain question? Were you *honest* or *dishonest* when you held the views which you now reject? If honest, is it impossible for you to imagine that those who still hold what you once held, may be honest too? If dishonest—which we are far from believing—are you precisely the person to impute to us dishonesty? Or, lastly, are you alone honest, no matter what you accept or what you reject?"

In further replying to the absurd charge of "profanity," the author refers to that last word of Mr. Newman's, contained in his chapter on "The Moral Perfection of Christ"—a chapter which, we know, some of Mr. Newman's most ardent admirers and most intelligent sympathisers read with blushing cheeks and burning shame, and then rose up to shake off his hand, to renounce his guidance, and to commence retracing their footsteps,—a chapter which contains the extremest display of heartlessness, irreverence, and shallow conceit, ever made by a reckless disputant in all the controversies of modern times. That chapter will act powerfully as a barrier to the spread of Mr. Newman's "spiritualism." Only when the moral necessities of man have ceased, when his susceptibility to the beautiful and the good is destroyed, when he has "no guilt and no sorrows," will there be found companions for Mr. Newman, in again reviling and spitting upon the Saviour. We earnestly recommend Section XI. of this "Defence," &c., which contains a criticism of Mr. Newman's chapter on this topic, to the attention of our readers. It is a searching criticism, a masterly argument, an eloquent protest. Its conclusion is exceedingly beautiful and powerful; and the tone of the whole is that of faith, reverence, and confidence. After perusing it, let the reader turn from that section to the extracts from Mr. Newman, which form an appendix to the volume—they will both vindicate the author's strictures and greatly deepen the impression of his calm and dignified reply.

The weighty matter contained in the sections on "The Theory of Progress," and Mr. Newman's idea of a Moral Deity, and on "The Exigencies of Deism," can neither be represented by extract nor receive justice by mere description. These discussions we must hope our readers will examine for themselves. We will but add a specimen of Mr. Newman's delightful confusedness and self-contradiction, from the section on "The Early Progress of Christianity."

"Mr. Newman had represented the Christians, previous to the age of Constantine, as 'a small fraction'; and yet declared it was 'the Christian soldiers of Constantine who conquered the empire for Christianity.' If all the Christians in the empire were but a small fraction, those in the army—considering that it was not a very likely place for the primitive Christians to harbour in—must have been a very small fraction of 'a small fraction'; and the question returns, how it came to pass that a small fraction of 'a small fraction' managed to conquer the colossal strength of a hostile or indifferent empire for Christianity. Mr. Newman, omitting this part of the subject—it was as well omitted—affirms, as usual, that I have misrepresented him, and thus he endeavours to show it:—The author of *The Eclipse of Faith* has derided me for despatching, in two paragraphs, what occupied Gibbon's whole fifteenth chapter; but this author, here as always, misrepresents me. Gibbon is exhibiting and developing the deep-seated causes of the spread of Christianity before Constantine; and he by no means exhausts the subject. I am comparing the ostensible and notorious facts concerning the outward conquest of Christianity with those of other religions. I consider that in this very paragraph, Mr. Newman distinctly shows that I have not misrepresented him; nor is it true that I have overlooked his novel hypothesis. He says that 'Gibbon is exhibiting and developing the deep-seated causes of the spread of Christianity before Constantine,' which Mr. Newman says had not spread! On the contrary, he assumes that the Christians were 'a small fraction,' and thus does dismiss in two sentences, I might have said three words, what Gibbon had strained every nerve in his celebrated chapter to account for. * * * He [Mr. N.] says, after repeating that the Christians were but a small fraction of the empire, that 'Christianity was adopted as a state religion because of the great political power accruing from the organisation of the churches, and the devotion of Christians to their ecclesiastical citizenship.' If they had not been a small fraction, we should still, of course, have demanded something more than this free and easy way of disposing of the matter; for the bare assertion of such a critic as Mr. Newman will

hardly pass without proof; as also, how it was that *such* organisation as the primitive churches could be so obviously suited to political and military purposes. But, since they were a 'small fraction' of the empire, it is still less obvious how a great political power could suddenly 'accrue from their church organisation.'"

We have noticed Mr. Newman's books, as they appeared, with courtesy towards an accomplished man, and with respect for the sincerity of his motives; and we have every right to consider that the reproach of being "insolent and dictatorial," which Mr. Newman flings at his critics, has not, hitherto at least, attached to us. But, looking at his late prefaces, new chapters, and replies, we cannot help thinking he has done his utmost to *deserve* insolence, ridicule, and condemnation; and that he has little to complain of if they have fallen upon him. We thought "*The Eclipse*" not always happy or right in its tone, though our objections were totally unlike Mr. Newman's; but we highly valued it as just the strong, clear, logical, resolute, and brilliant book that was necessary, and sure to tell. Mr. Newman is evidence that it has told; but other and better effects than it has wrought on him are its fruits, and will yet further be so. This "Defence" has all the power of the work it defends, and adds new and important considerations to the discussion, while thoroughly vindicating the sentiments and arguments, the spirit and general character, of the original work.

The Parables of Frederic Adolphus Krummacher. Translated from the German of the Seventh Edition. With Forty Illustrations, drawn by J. R. Clayton; engraved by the Brothers Dalziel. London: N. Cooke.

We believe that no complete translation of the Parables of Krummacher has been previously made in this country. They are beautiful compositions, full of poetry, point, and moral suggestiveness. But if we were inclined to write a dissertation on the nature of the Parable, we should resort to Krummacher's pages for specimens of what the true Parable is not, as well as for some few exquisite and almost perfect instances of what it is. But, however severely we might criticise their form, we should have little to except to the character and spirit of the compositions themselves. They are pregnant with wisdom and piety; and, to youth especially, will afford delight by their charming robe of fiction, while they convey profound truths, or inculcate important practical maxims.

But it is of the designs by which this beautiful little volume is illustrated, that we have chiefly to speak. Mr. Clayton was unknown to us until the appearance of an edition of the "*Pilgrim's Progress*," in the "National Illustrated Library;" to which he contributed a series of outlines, more truthful in sentiment, more perfect in expression, than any similar illustrations of "*glorious John*." In the volume now before us, he has exchanged the outline for the vignette description of design. Here, again, he has succeeded in proving himself a true artist, with fine perceptions, and a hand that obeys well and vigorously his thought. He takes at once, and as it were at one stride, a place beside the very highest book-illustrators of our day; and promises to furnish us yet with treats rich and rare in art's ministry to literature. His excellence is *form*—expression by form, his achieved success. But other labours and triumphs are, we hope, before him. He may yet learn much, and has almost everything to do, in the representation of the human face. We know that in these vignettes he has had little opportunity of displaying his power in that way; but where there has been opportunity, there occur his comparative failures. The highest incidents that can claim an artist's pencil, demand more than fine figure-drawing and true grouping. And, however conscientiously an artist may labour to make his design tell its story,—and however effectively the general fact may be told,—one soon demands relief by some other sketch, or turns altogether weariedly away, unless the more delicate features of the incident, and its human feeling as only the human face can express it, be found in the representation he offers us. Some of our best book-illustrators have become tiresome, common-place, and self-repeating, for not knowing this; and others, even just now, seem in danger of forgetting it. Mr. Clayton may mark out, if he pleases, "a more excellent way" for himself; and he will not easily be surpassed if he takes it faithfully.

Historical Development of Speculative Philosophy, from Kant to Hegel. From the German of Dr. H. M. CHALYBEUS, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Kiel. By the Rev. ALFRED EDERSHEIM. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

THIS Treatise, which had its origin, as the author informs us, in Lectures delivered in Dresden in 1835, and which has since passed through three editions, has been for some years known to the higher class of philosophical students in this country, and has been included in lists of authoritative works on the later

developments of philosophy in Germany. If it be true, as may be alleged, that at present such a work is likely to be consulted and profitably used chiefly by persons who will, most likely, be competent to its perusal in the original German, we are yet persuaded that the class of readers for such a book is rapidly increasing in this country; and that while this, as Sir William Hamilton says, "assuredly will not be deemed too elementary," it is within the compass of all whose philosophical culture is more than a dilettante dabbling in metaphysics; and will reward the pains of any reader, who seeks by its aid to become acquainted with the views and speculations of the best minds of modern Germany. We therefore receive this translation with great satisfaction, and willingly testify that we have already used it with much advantage to the amount and clearness of our philosophical knowledge. [The range taken by Chalybeus, comprises the systems of Kant, Jacobi, Herbart, Fichte, Schleiermacher, Schelling, and Hegel. Of these he gives expositions, which are everywhere reputed for their ability, impartiality, and completeness. That they are always perfectly lucid, we cannot say; but we presume the reason is, that to the inhering difficulties of the subject, are added the necessary imperfections of a translation; while, too, the author presupposes knowledge that is more usually possessed by German than by English students of philosophy.]

There is no one better qualified to pronounce a judgment on the work than our great countryman, Sir William Hamilton. In a Prefatory Note, he gives it the following character:—

"Chalybeus has, by more than one work, established for himself the reputation of an acute speculator, a fair critic and a lucid writer; and, in particular, these Lectures are there [in Germany] recognised as affording a perspicuous and impartial survey of the various modern systems of German Philosophy, at once comprehensive and compendious. . . . In Germany these Lectures are considered as popular, but not as superficial. They are viewed as even supplying a desideratum."

Of this Translation, Sir William speaks as follows:—

"Though (and properly) not requested to express any opinion of the version itself, I cannot refrain from adding, that having been led on to re-peruse all the first nine lectures in the translation, which I have also occasionally compared with the original, I am strongly impressed with its general fidelity and clearness. Indeed, with the exception of a few expressions (and these I would demur to more frequently on rhetorical than on scientific grounds), this version of a work by no means easy to render adequately appears eminently worthy of approbation."

This is an opinion our readers will prefer infinitely to any of our own; and we leave it to make its own impression. The volume will, without doubt, soon be found amongst the books of every one who pursues the study of Speculative Philosophy. But we cannot close this notice without earnestly protesting against the issue of such a work without an index, and without head-lines, stating at least as much of the contents of the pages to which they might be affixed, as is now to be found in the Table of Contents alone. In these days of innumerable books, no mechanical aid to a work likely to be permanently preserved and frequently consulted, should on any account be neglected.

Who's to Blame, the Prince, the Press, or the Ministry?

A Letter to Lord Aberdeen. By PLAIN SPEECH. London: W. Freeman, 69, Fleet-street.

THERE is no doubt at all that this is "Plain Speech;" but we very much doubt whether it is *Sound Speech*. Of course, the subject is, the calumnies about Prince Albert; and while the author considers the Prince quite vindicated, he heaps the blame of these rumours, not on the Press, but on the policy of the Cabinet, and especially on Lord Aberdeen himself. It is a trenchant, caustic pamphlet, written with uncommon vigour and spirit. But it is only its attack on Diplomacy—"a shallow, false, and useless institution," "a subterfuge and a lie"—that we much sympathize with. We don't believe, as the writer does, that Lord Aberdeen is either a traitor or an imbecile. And we don't think this plucky writer would sketch a Foreign policy for England, that would embody the principles or lead to the results we should be able to commend and rejoice in.

Notes, Critical, Explanatory, and Practical, on the Book of the Prophet Daniel. By ALBERT BARNES. London: Blackie and Son.

As we have on a former occasion expressed with sufficient fulness our opinion as to the merits of this work, we have only to state that this new reprint, uniform with the publishers' "Illustrated Edition of Barnes's Notes," is printed excellently and carefully; has woodcuts that are a great improvement on those of the original work; is completed by some additional explanatory notes, and by Appendices from the commentary of Professor Stuart.

History of the Anti-Corn-Law League. By ARCHIBALD PRENTICE. Vol. II. London: W. and F. G. Cash.

We congratulate Mr. Prentice on having completed this faithful narrative of the great movement that forms the distinguishing mark in the history of England in the 19th century. The contemporaries of the struggle, and still more, the parties actually engaged in it, will take care to possess themselves of this useful record and memorial of the labours by which the victory was won. The future, too, will look back to these pages, and will draw thence examples and morals, for the social and political life of later days.

The Land of the Forum and the Vatican; or, Thoughts and Sketches during an Easter Pilgrimage to Rome. By NEWMAN HALL, B.A. London: Nisbet and Co.

THE frequent reader of books on Italy will most likely be exceedingly disappointed with this volume; but it has, as Mr. Hall says, "a character and purpose of its own," and those who are interested to know how "The Land of the Forum and the Vatican" impresses an English evangelical Dissenter, who looks at things through his own peculiar medium, in the light of religious and ecclesiastical associations, and speaks of them unrestrainedly with a feeling and in a style of his own, will not find the work altogether without pleasantness and instruction. It can add nothing to our information; it would be difficult to surpass former works in descriptive power; and it is neither literary nor artistic enough to bathe the Italy it depicts in the atmosphere that glorifies her. The description of the Miserere in the Sistine Chapel is really very fine; and there are many almost equally interesting passages. Romanism and other religious questions are prominent, but the spirit in which they are discussed is temperate and devout, rather than strongly controversial. The book is, as the author says, "deeply indebted" to the journal of his wife, from which he quotes.

The British and Foreign Homœopathic Medical Directory. Edited by Dr. ATKIN. London: Aylott and Co.

We are quite behind-hand with this book; and it itself was behind-hand in publication, as a Directory for 1853. The Directors of the "London and Provincial Medical Directory" having refused to include in their work any reference to the practitioners or publications devoted to Homœopathy, this sectional Directory seemed called for. It contains lists of all the Homœopathic practitioners, institutions, hospitals, and publications in Great Britain, America, and the continent—a useful manual for those who may require Homœopathic medical aid, especially when travelling; and a good indication of the progress of the doctrines and practice of Homœopathy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The True Church. A. Hall, Virtue & Co.
The Mystery Unveiled. Paton and Ritchie.
The Ultimate and Proximate Results of Redemption. A. Hall, Virtue & Co.
Truths Maintained. Aylott & Co.
Christology of the Old Testament. T. & T. Clark.
The Results of the Census of Great Britain. J. W. Parker & Son.
The Scottish Congregational Mag. A. Fullarton & Co.
Public Works in India. W. H. Allen & Co.
The Ballad of Babe Christabel. D. Bogue.
Who and What We Are. Horsell & Sheriff.
Paul Clifford. G. Routledge & Co.
Chalice of Nature. Binns & Goodwin.
The Testers Tested. T. Hatchard.
On the measures to be now taken in order to secure a good National Education. T. Hatchard.
A Rational Theory as to the cause of the varieties of Temperature in the different Latitudes of the Earth's Surface. Murray & Stanesby.
Life of Oliver Goldsmith.
Algeria, by J. R. Morell. N. Cooke.
The Prospects of Co-operative Associations in England. P. Richardson.
First Book of Euclid. Walton & Maberly.
Israel and the Pyramids. W. Freeman.
Who's to Blame. W. Freeman.
The Year Book of Facts, 1854. D. Bogue.
The Apostles and Early Church (Daily Bible Illustrations). Oliphant.

A gentleman asked a friend, in a somewhat knowing manner, "Pray, sir, did you ever see a cat fish?"

"No," was the response, "but I've seen a rope walk." There is to be seen at a farm at Braco, near Brechin, two young hares, suckled by a cat, and tended with all the care of a mother, thus controverting the order of nature; and at the same place two of six hens which survived for six weeks shut up in an out-house. Their four companions were dead, but the other two are strutting about the farm-yard quite healthy.

In the Court of Common Pleas the other day, the name of Mr. Charles Dickens was called. But that gentleman did not appear. Lord Campbell thought he heard the name of the illustrious Charles Dickens called upon the jury, but he observed he did not appear; now "if his great Chancery suit was still going on he should have been most happy to have excused him from attending, but as that was not so, his lordship thought he might have done them the honour of attending here to see how they went on at common law."

BIRTHS.

February 4th, at Moss Grove, Manchester, the wife of the Rev. FRANCIS TUCKER, of a son.
February 10th, at Sheffield, the wife of Mr. W. L. HUMFREY, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

February 7th, at Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham, by the Rev. J. A. James, Mr. T. FORGHAM, of Smallbrook-street, Birmingham, to Mrs. ALSTON, widow of the late J. ALSTON, Esq., of Yardley.
February 7th, at Ebenezer Chapel, Sunderland, by the Rev. R. W. McALL, Mr. ROBERT E. ROBINSON to MARGARET, second daughter of Mr. WILLIAM HOPE DAVISON.
February 7th, at the Independent Chapel, Ashton in Mackerfield, by the Rev. E. C. DOWTHWAITE, Mr. TURNER LATHAM, Ashton, to Miss ELLEN LETHLAND, of Park-lane, Ashton.
February 8th, at Week-street Chapel, Maidstone, by the Rev. George VERRALL, of Bromley, father of the bridegroom, the Rev. R. T. VERRALL, B.A., minister of the Congregational Church, Cardiff, to ELIZABETH MARY, eldest daughter of Mr. JOSEPH BROWN, bookseller, of Maidstone.
February 8th, at Bloomsbury Chapel, by the Rev. William Brock, ROBERT PRIESTLEY, Esq., of Rawtenstall, near Manchester, to MARGARET MCINTOSH, second daughter of JAMES TAYLOR, Esq., of Gordon-square.
February 10th, at Paris, HENRY BARING, Esq., M. P., to Mademoiselle MARIE DE MARTINOFF.
February 14, by the Rev. J. Jenkinson, in the Baptist Chapel, Oakham, Mr. WARREN EAST, draper, of Broughton, Northamptonshire, to Miss MARY HARRIS, milliner and dressmaker, of Oakham.

DEATHS.

November 1st, 1853, at North Melbourne, South Australia, after a few days' illness, SOPHIA JANE, the beloved wife of WILLIAM WILLIAMS, late of Upton-place, Essex.
January 27th, in the 63rd year of his age, Mr. JAMES NEWBIGIN, at his residence, St. Andrew's, Norwich.
January 30th, at Cairnbank, Forfarshire, JOHN HULL FELL, Esq., of Belmont, Uxbridge, Middlesex. February 3rd, also at Cairnbank, ELIZABETH, widow of the above.
February 1st, while at school with the Rev. Adolf Damman, D.D., at Hameln, Hanover, GEORGE ELKIN, the second and beloved son of the Rev. THOMAS JAMES, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, aged 16 years and 3 months.
February 4th, at his residence, 1, Upper Hyde-park-street, JAMES CUNLIFFE, Esq., of 24, Lombard-street, aged 56.
February 6th, at No. 5, Park-street, Islington, GEORGE, son of EDWARD THOMPSON, Esq., aged 19.
February 6th, ANNA, the eldest daughter of the late CHRISTOPHER FINCH, Esq., of Sudbury.
February 7th, of bronchitis, at Letcombe Regis, Berks, THOMAS GOODLAKE, Esq., aged 78. He was the senior magistrate of the county.
February 7th, at 81, Borough-road, London, ANN, the beloved wife of Mr. B. W. WHEATLAND, aged 29.
February 7th, in the 37th year of her age, LOUISA, wife of Mr. JOHN NUNNLEY, and daughter of R. B. HEYGATE, Esq., all of Market Harborough.
February 9th, at Old Aberdeen, the Very Rev. WILLIAM JACK, Principal of King's College, in the 86th year of his age.
February 10th, in his 64th year, by a fall from his horse while following the hounds at Singleton, Sussex, ADMIRAL POULETT.
February 12th, at No. 3, Rutland-gate, aged 14, ANNA ELIZA ELKIN, eldest child of Mr. HENRY CHESTER.
February 12th, at Ipswich, deeply lamented, MARY, the beloved wife of Mr. OLIVER PRENTICE, and younger daughter of the late Rev. ANDREW RITCHIE, of Wrentham, aged 29.
February 6, aged 26, Mr. WILLIAM ROBINSON SMART, of Nottingham.

Cleanings.

Among the recent shipments to Australia from the harbour of Glasgow, are a large number of gigs, carts, drays, and other vehicles of locomotion and conveyance. A German offers for sale instruments "for indicating persons' thoughts by the agency of nervous electricity." The price of the instrument is two guineas.

The Finsbury Freehold Land Society advertised for a thousands rods of oak post and rail fencing. The highest tender was £782; the lowest £250.

A corn-factor has sold this week wheat which was thirty years in warehouse in Liverpool! When the owner heard of the sale, he said, "The price is too small: I wish I had kept it longer."—*Albion*.

Mademoiselle de Petrowitch, a young lady of high origin, granddaughter of Kara Georgevitch, during his lifetime Hospodar of Servia, has just made her appearance for the first time on the Italian boards in Paris.

At Rome Mr. Spence has completed the model of a colossal figure, intended for the Sydenham Palace, representing his native city of Liverpool. The figure is dignified, and grandly draped, and will be easily distinguished from her companions in the row of cities, by the commercial caduceus and the legendary bird, the liver, which was the origin of her name.

James Defoe, a grandson of the great Daniel, is now living in obscure poverty in London. He is by trade a boxmaker and undertaker, but failed in business some time ago, and is now in great distress.—*Preston Guardian*. (Defoe was born in 1661, and died in 1731. No grandson of his can well be living in 1853.—*Gateshead Observer*.)

It is a villainous proverb which says that "promises like pie-crust were made to be broken." A promise should be given with caution, and kept with care. A promise should be made by the heart, and remembered by the head. A promise is the offspring of the intention, and should be nurtured by recollection. A promise and its performance should, like the scales of a true balance, always present a mutual adjustment. A promise delayed is justice deferred. A promise neglected is an untruth told. A promise attended to is a debt settled.

A writer in "Notes and Queries" has the hardihood to charge the origin of the word "cant" on a Scotsman, on the strength of an article in the Edinburgh "Mercurius Publicus," of Feb. 28, 1661:—"Mr. Alexander Cant, son to Mr. Andrew Cant (who in his discourse 'De Excommunicato Trucidando' maintained that all refusers of the covenant ought to be excommunicated, and that all so excommunicated might lawfully be killed), was lately deposed by the Synod for divers seditious and impudent passages in his sermons at several places, as at the pulpit of Banchry." From this Cant all sedition in Scotland was called canting.

Mr. Dion Bouricault (author of "London Assurance," and other plays), lecturing recently at New York on London authorship, gave the following history of our great comic serial, *Punch*—"It was concocted in the dark back parlour of a public-house behind Drury-lane Theatre. The paper was started; it struggled on for about a year, and was then sold for £100 to Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, the printers. In their hands it rose to eminence. All the wit in England hastened to their standard. It had the honour of being expelled

from several kingdoms on the continent of Europe." "One night at lady Blessington's," said Mr. Bourcault, "Lord Brougham told me that he would rather stand a six weeks' roasting in the House of Peers than a single scaring joke in *Punch*."

"Jordan's Autobiography" is responsible for the following:—At Ballahuylish, a cottage happening to die when the severe weather rendered it difficult to proceed to the usual cemetery, some time elapsed before the ceremony could be performed. At length, Donald was properly buried, and the minister returned to the dwelling of the widow for refreshment, accompanied, as is customary by the neighbours. He reproved the widow on her excessive manifestations of grief and unreasonable lamentations. "Oh, Donald, Donald!—by this time, to be sure, the dear departed is in Beelzebub's bosom." "Beelzebub's bosom," exclaimed the minister; "It is Abraham's bosom, ye mean. Ha ye sat sae lang under ma ministry, and no ken the difference between Beelzebub and Abraham?" "Waes me, waes me," rejoined the widow, "I'm a pair ignorant creature. Beelzebub and Abraham, Abraham and Beelzebub; a' declare that in spite o' aw yer teaching, a' wanna ken the ane frae the ither, gin they were baith standing afore me."

An exchange paper gives the following as a cure for bronchitis:—Take honey in the comb, squeeze it out, and dilute it with a little water; occasionally moistening the lips and mouth with it. It has never been known to fail, in cases even where children had throats so swollen as to be unable to swallow.

There are at present in the world 83 empires, monarchies, republics, principalities, duchies, and electorates. There are 6 emperors, including his sable Highness Faustin I., of St. Domingo; 16 kings, numbering among them Jamaica, King of all the Mosquitoes, and also those of Dahomey and the Sandwich Islands; 5 queens, including Ranavala of Madagascar, and Pomare of the Society Islands; 18 presidents, 10 reigning princes, 7 grand dukes, 10 dukes, 1 pope, 2 sultans, of Borneo and Turkey; 2 governors, of Entrerios and Corrientes; 1 viceroy, of Egypt; 1 shah, of Persia; 1 imam, of Muscat; 1 ameer, of Cabul; 1 bey, of Tunis; and, lastly, 1 director, of Nicaragua.

The following is a copy of an epitaph on a tombstone in Kidderminster churchyard:—

"Here lies one, deny it who can,
A patriot, soldier, and an honest man.
In church and king was all his pride,
In that he lived, by that he died."

In early life the late Mr. R. Harris of Leicester was employed upon the *Leicester Herald*, then conducted by Mr. (afterwards Sir) R. Phillips. It was at this date that an incident occurred, which is thus related by one of the local journals:—On the eve of publication, an accident happened in the *Herald* office: it was no other than the "squabbling" or turning into "pie," or entire confusion, of the whole mass of letters constituting a column of that paper. Young Harris was the unlucky author of this catastrophe. What was to be done? The papers must be got ready for the post, or murmurs of discontent would come from subscribers in every quarter, far and near. A happy thought flashed across the mind of the ingenious Phillips. He instructed the printer to make up a column of standing "pie," jumbled together in "most admired disorder," as every letter was; and at the head of the perplexing conglomeration, he penned a notice to this effect—that just as the *Herald* was going to press an express from Holland had been received, which, being in the original Dutch, the editor had not had time to translate; but he promised an English version in the ensuing week's paper. It is needless to state that the translation never appeared; although, many years after the event, one of the *Herald* subscribers, living in a secluded village in Derbyshire, who had preserved the paper containing the Dutch express (and spent all his spare cash, in vain, over Dutch lexicons), gravely requested Sir R. Phillips to favour him with the promised translation.

Money Market & Commercial Intelligence.

City, Tuesday Evening.

The English Funds have fluctuated during the past week with the news from abroad. On Saturday afternoon, Consols having remained dull during the day, closed at an advance. The improvement continued on Monday, notwithstanding the report of formidable preparations for war. The strength of the market was attributable chiefly to the scarcity of stock. To-day prices again improved, and Consols were quoted as high as 92½ buyers, but there was afterwards a reaction. The wide fluctuations in prices of Shares, Government Stocks, &c., will render the present a peculiarly heavy settlement, but it is confidently anticipated that the heavy differences may be satisfactorily arranged.

Foreign Securities have improved, though but little business is doing. Russian Stock has advanced 1 per cent., and is quoted at 104½ and 105½. Mexican has been dealt in at 25½ to 25¾. Granada Deferred, 7. Spanish Bonds are nearly 1 per cent. higher, having been dealt in at 40½ 41; and Sardinian from 84½ to 85½; Venezuela, 28; Dutch 4 per Cents, 93.

There has been considerable activity in the Share Market, and prices have risen £1 to £3. Caledonians, £1. Great Northerns, nearly £2, particularly the Class A stock. Lancashire and Yorkshire, 10s. North Westerns, £1 higher. Midlands, North British, and South Easterns, are all 1 better. Berwicks have been dealt in at 69, and York and North Midland, 49½. Luxembourgs (£15) improved to 7½, and the £10 shares to 25. The settlement to-day passed over without any difficulties.

Colonial Bank Shares were dealt in at 19 and 19½. English and Scottish, 2½ dis. New South Wales went up to 45½. Oriental, 45½. Union of Australia, 69. Australian Agricultural Company were higher at 42½. Scottish Australian, 1½ prem. North British Australian par. British American Land, 74. General Screw Steam, 16. Australian Mail Steam, 3.

The Bank of England returns for the week ending Saturday, the 4th instant, showed, that although the Bank has not done so large an amount of discount business as in the week previously, nevertheless money was wanted by the customers, who drew largely upon their balances, say to the extent of £900,000, which compelled the Bank to sell stock to the extent of £700,000, in order to prevent too heavy a decrease in the reserve of notes.

The imports of the precious metals last week, amount in value to about £400,000, while the export do not much exceed £100,000.

The tone of the corn market on Monday seemed firmer, but buyers were still unwilling to meet the views of sellers, and the business was consequently unimportant. For wheat and flour, last Friday's prices may be said to be maintained. All the provincial markets held since last Friday, are reported as lower, except that of Liverpool, which was firm. The Baltic markets, according to the last accounts, were quiet, under the influence of the dull reports from the western markets. The Italian and French markets continue very quiet, with prices tending downwards. At Odessa (by telegraph) the port was again free from ice on the 4th February.

The reports from the manufacturing towns for the past week show general steadiness of trade, but present scarcely anything for particular remark. At Manchester the tendency has been slightly toward improvement, the tone of business being influenced by the firmness of the Liverpool cotton-market. At Birmingham the general influx of foreign orders is undiminished, while the home demand is also continuously active. The advices received, however, by the various firms from their agents in Australia are not on the whole favourable. From Nottingham the accounts indicate considerable dullness. In the woollen districts there has been renewed animation, although the Bradford worsted trade is still without recovery. The Irish linen markets continue in a healthy state.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the past week show a decrease. They have comprised altogether four vessels—three to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burden of 1,331 tons, and one to Sydney, of 946 tons. Their total capacity was, consequently, 2,277 tons. The rates of freight exhibit a further tendency to decline.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday	Monday	Tuesday
3 per Ct. Consols	91½	92½	92½	91½	92	91½
Consols for Ac-						
count.....	92½	92½	91½	91½	91½	90½
3 per Cent. Red	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 3 per Cent.						
Annuities.....	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	92½
India Stock.....				230		235
Bank Stock.....	216½			217½	216	217
Exchange Bills	17 pm.	17 pm.	20 pm.	20 pm.	20 pm.	20 pm.
India Bonds.....	10 pm.	10 pm.	6 pm.		10 pm.	10 pm.
Long Annuities			5½			5½

The Gazette.

Friday, February 10th, 1854.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, or the week ending on Saturday, the 4th day of February, 1854.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	29,523,620	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	15,523,620
		Silver Bullion	
	£29,523,620		£29,523,620

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	14,553,000	Government Securities	
Reserve	3,349,523	— (including	
Public Deposits	2,121,718	Dead Weight An-	
Other Deposits	12,608,926	nuit)	12,537,716
Seven Day and other		Other Securities	13,570,465
Bills	1,144,582	Notes	6,966,505
		Gold and Silver Coin	703,063
	£23,777,749		£23,777,749

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated the 9th day of February, 1854.

This "Gazette" contains a notice that the following places have been duly registered for the solemnization of marriages therein:—The Scotch Church, Hexham, Northumberland. London-road Congregational Chapel, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

BANKRUPT.

COODE, GEORGE, Victoria-street, Westminster, patent irrigator manufacturer, Feb. 21, at half-past 1, and March 26, at 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sols. Messrs. Hill and Matthews, Bury-court, St. Mary-axe; off. assig., Mr. Graham.

TOOVEY, WILLIAM, Ashfield, Church-street, Lambeth, lithographic printer, Feb. 22, at half-past 2, and March 21, at half-past 1, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Mr. Moss, Moorgate-street; off. assig., Mr. Graham.

COX, JOHN, New-road, Rotherhithe, builder, Feb. 17 and March 24, at half-past 11, at the Bankruptcy Court. Sol. Mr. Wilson, Gresham-street; off. assig., Mr. Cannan, Aldermanbury.

CARTER, J., Gloucester, scrivener, Feb. 27 and March 27, at 11, at the Bristol District Court of Bankruptcy. Sols. Messrs. Bevan and Gilling, Bristol; off. assig., Mr. Hutton, Bristol.

DIAMOND, R. G., Newton-Abbott, Devonshire, stationer, Feb. 21, and March 14, at 1, at the Exeter District Court of Bankruptcy. Sol. Mr. Stogden, Exeter; off. assig., Mr. Hirtzel, Exeter.

HAMMOND, R., Ripon, builder, Feb. 23 and March 24, at 11, at the Leeds District Court of Bankruptcy. Sols. Messrs. Bar and Nelson, Leeds; and Mr. Hindle, Ripon; off. assig., Mr. E. Young, Leeds.

GIBSON, J. R., Waterloo, near Liverpool, innkeeper, Feb. 22 and March 16, at 1, at the Liverpool District Court of Bankruptcy. Sol. Mr. W. Hinde, Liverpool; off. assig., Mr. Turner, Liverpool.

ELLIS, J., Ardwick, near Manchester, joiner, Feb. 23 and March

16, at 12, at the Manchester District Court of Bankruptcy. Sol. Mr. H. Blair, Manchester; off. assig., Mr. Pott, Manchester.

WORSLEY, T., Macclesfield, clog maker, Feb. 24, and March 17, at 12, at the Manchester District Court of Bankruptcy. Sols. Messrs. Sole, Turner, and Turner, Aldermanbury, London; Mr. Neild, Manchester; and Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. Pott, Manchester.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

GORELY, SPENCER JAMES, Buckland, near Dover, Kent.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

L. ROSE, Tain, general agent, Feb. 20, at 3, at the Crown and Anchor Hotel, Tain.

A. and T. PATTERSON, Hutcheson-town, Glasgow, builders, Feb. 22, at 1, at the Crow Hotel, Glasgow.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

W. MCKAY, Upper Kennington-lane, Lambeth, draper—first div. of 3s. 3d., Feb. 13, and following Mondays, at Mr. H. H. Cannan's, Aldermanbury.

F. F. FOX, Cornhill, tailor—first div. of 3d., Feb. 13, and following Mondays, at Mr. Cannan's, Aldermanbury.

H. WOOD, Cheltenham, draper, first div. of 1s. 6d., Feb. 13, and following Mondays, at Mr. Cannan's, Aldermanbury.

J. C. FAWCETT, York, draper—first div. of 1s. 9d., Feb. 14, and following Tuesdays, at Mr. J. Nicholson's Basinghall-street.

H. BAKER, New Oxford-street, Bloomsbury, ironmonger—first div. of 2s., Feb. 14, and following Tuesdays, at Mr. J. Nicholson's, Basinghall-street.

J. McLACHLAN, Spital-square, Norton Folgate, auctioneer—first div. of 1s. 9d., Feb. 14, and following Tuesdays, at Mr. J. Nicholson's, Basinghall-street.

G. WARDROSE, High-street, Marylebone, grocer—first div. of 10s., Feb. 14, and following Tuesdays, at Mr. J. Nicholson's, Basinghall-street.

A. LATHEBY, Burton-upon-Trent, grocer—first div. of 3s. 8d., any Thursday, at Mr. J. Christie's, Waterloo-street, Birmingham.

A. S. BURNS, Liverpool, hoister—first div. of 9d. Feb. 20, and following Mondays, at Mr. W. Bird's, Liverpool.

Tuesday, February 14, 1854.

BANKRUPT.

WASHINGTON YARROLL and THOMAS HALLAM, High-street, Borough, tailors, Feb. 22 and April 5, at 11, at Basinghall-street. Sols. Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane, City; off. assig., Mr. Nicholson, Basinghall-street.

BIRCHAM ALPE, Duke-street, Manchester-square, milliner, Feb. 20, and April 5, at 12, at Basinghall-street. Sols. Messrs. Linklater, Sise-lane, City; off. assig., Mr. Nicholson, Basinghall-street.

BROOKS, GEORGE, Tonbridge Wells, Kent, tailor, Feb. 25 at 11, and March 31 at 1, at Basinghall-street. Sols. Messrs. Richardson and Talbot, Bedford-row, and Mr. Foreman, Tonbridge Wells; off. assig., Mr. Whitmore, Basinghall-street.

HEATHWAITE, JAMES, King-street, Covent-garden, cheese-monger, Feb. 24 and March 27, at 11, at Basinghall-street. Sols. Messrs. Ashurst and Son, Old Jewry; off. assig., Mr. Cannan, Aldermanbury.

STUART, ALEXANDER, Queen's-road West, Chelsea, grocer, Feb. 23 at 11, and March 30, at 12, at Basinghall-street. Sol. Mr. Fitch, Union-street, Southwark; off. assig., Mr. Bell, Coleman-street-buildings.

WEST, FREDERICK JAMES, London-terrace, Hackney-road, draper, Feb. 24, and March 28, at 12, at Basinghall-street. Sol. Mr. Jones, Sise-lane, City; off. assig., Mr. Lee, Moorgate-street.

BALLINGER, T. Birmingham, confectioner, Feb. 23 and March 22, at 12, at Birmingham Court. Sol. Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. Whitmore, Birmingham.

GIBNEY, J. Nottingham, currier, Feb. 24 and March 17, at 10, at Birmingham Court, held at Nottingham. Sol. Mr. Cope, Nottingham; off. assig., Mr. Harris, Nottingham.

LEAKE, C. Crowland, Lincolnshire, grocer, Feb. 24 and March 17, at 10, at Birmingham Court, held at Nottingham. Sol. Messrs. Hill and Mathews, St. Mary-axe, City, and Messrs. Bray and Bridges, Birmingham; off. assig., Mr. Harris, Nottingham.

HILL, R. Nottingham, lace merchant, Feb. 24 and March 17, at 10, at Birmingham Court, held at Nottingham. Sol. Mr. Shilton, Nottingham; off. assig., Mr. Harris, Nottingham.

DEWINTER, I. Halifax, Yorkshire, commission agent, Feb. 27 and March 23, at 1, at Leeds Court. Sols. Messrs. Rudd and Kenny, Halifax, and Messrs. Bond and Barwick, Leeds; off. assig., Mr. Hope, Leeds.

BUSSELL, R. G. Manchester, cotton spinner, Feb. 24 and March 17, at 12, at Manchester Court. Sols. Messrs. Atkinson and Last, Manchester; off. assig., Mr. Pott, Manchester.

GRAVE, J. Manchester, warehouseman, Feb. 28 and March 28, at 12, at Manchester Court. Sols. Messrs. Norris and Allen, Bedford-row, and Messrs. Norris, Manchester; off. assig., Mr. Fraser, Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. LONGWILL, Glasgow, innkeeper, Feb. 23, at the Tontine Hotel, Glasgow.

T. KNOX, Foulden Bastille, Berwickshire, shoemaker, Feb. 24, at the Black Bull Inn.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

J. CLARK, Oxford, heavy stable keeper—first div. of 2s. 7d. Feb. 16, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street.

W. ELLAMTON, Cambridge, brewer—second div. of 5s. 13d., Feb. 16, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr. Graham's, Coleman-street.

W. TRANOMAR, Crawford-street, Marylebone, hardwareman—first div. of 5s., any Wednesday, at Mr. Whitmore's, Basinghall-street.

F. RAVE, and G. W. MORTIMER, Bury, Lancashire, silk dyers—first div. of 8s. 6d., Feb. 21, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Hernaman's, Manchester.

T. CROOK, Preston, Lancashire, manufacturer—first div. of 1s. 7d., Feb. 21, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Hernaman's, Manchester.

R. WALKER, Staleybridge, Lancashire, grocer—first div. of 8s. 6d., Feb. 21, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Hernaman's, Manchester.

M. WOOD, and J. WILDING, Openshaw, Lancashire, boiler maker—first div. of 6s. 8d., Feb. 21, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Hernaman's, Manchester.

R. RUTHERFORD, St. John's, Newfoundland, and Manchester, merchant—first div. of 5s. 5d., Feb. 21, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Pott's, Manchester.

Markets.

MARK-LANE, MONDAY, February 13, 1854.

A moderate supply of English wheat was not disposed of without difficulty, at a slight decline upon the currency of Monday last. In foreign wheat the transactions were on a limited scale, at former rates. Flour scarcely sold so well as in the early part of last week. Barley must be noted 1s. cheaper. Oats were a dull sale at former prices. Beans and Peas were 1s. cheaper. Cloverseed very dull without material alteration in value.

Arrivals into London from Feb. 6, to Feb. 11.

	English.	Scotch.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....	4129	8354
Barley.....	6630	3465	1417
Oats.....	2829	5262	8952	2222
Malt.....	13164	50

Flour, 6958 sacks, and 13655 barrels.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, SMITHFIELD, MONDAY, February 13.

There was only a moderate supply of foreign stock on sale in to-day's market: yet the demand for it ruled heavy, at drooping prices. The arrivals of Beasts fresh up from our grazing districts were considerably on the increase, and of greatly improved quality. Notwithstanding that the attendance of buyers was tolerably good, and that the weather was favourable for slaughtering, the Monee trade ruled very inactive, at a decline in the prices of 4s. day last of 3d. per 8lbs. The top figure for the best Scots was 4s. 8d. per 8lbs. The numbers of sheep were somewhat in excess of Monday last. Even the primest Downs met a very slow inquiry at late rates. All other breeds moved off heavily, but we have no

actual decline to notice in prices. The general quality of the Sheep was by no means first-rate. Calves, the supply of which was good, sold slowly at last Monday's currency. The foreign Calves have come to hand in wretched condition. The pork trade ruled dull at last week's quotations.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal.)

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Coarse and inferior	3	4	3	6	Prime coarse wool-	4	6	4	8
Beasts	3	8	3	10	led Sheep	4	6	4	8
Second quality do.	4	0	4	4	Prime South Down	4	10	5	2
Prime large Oxen	4	0	4	4	Sheep	4	10	5	2
Prime Scots, &c.	4	6	4	8	Large coarse Calves	4	2	4	8
Coarse and inferior	3	2	3	6	Prime small do.	4	10	5	4
Sheep	3	2	3	6	Large Hogs	3	0	4	2
Second quality do.	3	8	4	4	Neat small Porkers	4	4	4	10
Knuckling Calves, 23s. to 29s.; and quarter-old store Pigs, 21s. to 26s. each.									

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, February 13.—These markets continue to be well supplied with each kind of meat; nevertheless the general demand is steady, on the following terms:—

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior Beef	3	0	3	2	Inferior Mutton	3	0	3	6
Middling do.	3	4	3	8	Middling do.	3	8	4	2
Prime large do.	3	10	4	0	Prime do.	4	4	4	8
Do. small do.	4	2	4	4	Veal	4	0	5	4
Large Pork	3	4	4	2	Small Pork	4	4	5	0

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, February 13.—We have passed a quiet week. Next to nothing was doing in Irish Butter. Prices again declined 2s. to 3s., and the market ended dull. Foreign supplied the chief wants of the trade; passable and good quality was dealt in to a fair extent, at from 78s. to 84s.; fine was saleable at an advance of 2s. to 4s. The supply short, the last Dutch shipments being detained by stormy weather. Bacon, at a further reduction of 1s. to 2s., was in limited request. Some prime new American singed sides arrived, and sold at from 50s. to 54s. Hams and Lard were a slow sale, at no change worth notice in value.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Friesland per cwt.	112	116	Cheshire (new)	64	80				
Kiel	110	114	Cheddar	66	80				
Dorset (new)	112	120	Double Gloucester	64	72				
Carlton do.	100	106	Single do.	64	70				
Waterford do.	98	102	York Hams (new)	76	86				
Cork do.	98	104	Westmorland do.	72	82				
Limerick do.	92	98	Irish do.	70	78				
Sligo do.	96	104	Wiltshire Bacon (green)	62	66				
Fresh Butter per doz.	15	18	Waterford Bacon	60	63				

BREAD. The prices of Wheat Bread in the Metropolis are from 11d. to 11½d.; and Household do., 9d. to 10½d. per 4lbs. loaf.

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Feb. 13.—Since Monday last the arrivals of Potatoes by railway have increased. The imports have amounted to 136 tons from Rotterdam, and 20 from Belfast. We have a fair demand, as follows:—Kent and Essex Regents, 140s. to 150s.; Scotch do. 130s. to 140s.; do. cups, 120s. to 130s.; foreign, 110s. to 120s. per ton.

HOPS, Monday, February 13.—Our market remains without any material alteration. Where sales are pressed, a reduction from recent prices must be submitted to.

SEEDS, Monday, February 13.—There is now a fair demand for actual consumption, and prices remain steady for red Cloverseed and Trefoil. White Cloverseed remains without alteration. Spring Tares meet an improved demand, and with limited supply obtain advanced prices. The demand for Linseed continues steady, and last week's prices are well supported. Bombay is selling at 61s. to 62s.; Calcutta, 59s. to 60s.; Petersburg, 56s. to 58s. per qr. We have a slow sale for Rapeseed, yet the quotations are tolerably firm. Most other articles command previous rates.

COVENT GARDEN, Saturday, February 11.—Notwithstanding the changeableness of the weather, Vegetables are still well supplied, and Fruit is also sufficient for the demand. Late Grapes continue good. Pears consist of Glout Morceau, Beurra Rance, Winter Crassane, Easter Beurra, and Ne Plus Meuris. Among Dessert Apples are good samples of Ribston Pippin, Old Nonpareil, and Newtown Pippin. Chestnuts are plentiful. Potatoes are a trifle cheaper, and trade for them is dull. Asparagus is coming in at from 8s. to 10s. per hundred, and Seakale at from 1s. to 2s. per punnet. Carrots and Turnips are cheaper. Some good Broccoli is coming in from Cornwall. Salad Vegetables from the Continent are beginning to make their appearance. Mushrooms are scarce. Cut flowers consist of Camellias, Azaleas, Cyclamens, Heaths, Hyacinths, Tulips, and Roses.

CHICORY, LONDON, Saturday, Feb. 11.—Our market continues to be tolerably well supplied with most kinds of Chicory, the demand for which is steady, at full prices.

Per Ton.

	£	s.	£	s.		£	s.	£	s.
Foreign root (in bond) Harlingen	10	5	10	15	Roasted & ground				
English root (free)					English	18	0	20	16
Guernsey	10	5	11	5	Foreign	30	10	36	0
York	9	15	11	10	Guernsey	26	0	28	5

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, February 13.—The market is quiet at 62s. 6d. on the spot, and 62s. for April and May. Annexed are the statistics of stocks and prices compiled from official sources:—

	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Stock	43,617	54,261	40,348	38,157
Delivery last week	2,151	2,528	1,816	1,747
Ditto from 1st June	72,238	80,433	74,727	75,658
Arrival last week	115	1,155	305	1,041
Ditto from 1st June	90,581	93,161	74,447	90,500
Price of Y.C.	37s. 6d.	35s. to 35s. 3d.	43s. 9d. to 44s.	62s. 9d. to 62s. 9d.
Price of Town	39s. 6d.	38s.	45s. 9d.	64s. 9d.

The arrivals last week comprised 335 casks from St. Petersburg; 323 from Australia, and 383 from other places; total, 1,041 casks.

COALS, Monday February 13.—Needy buyers were compelled to give last day's rates. Stewarts, 30s.—Hettons, 30s.—Bradyls, 29s. 6d.; South Kelloe, 28s.—Wylams, 24s. 6d.—Tanfield, 23s.—Lambton's 28s. 6d.—Hartleys, 24s. 6d.—Fresh arrivals, 84—left from last day, 463. Total, 547.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week, were 1,588 bales, of which 1,006 were from Sydney, 520 from Peru, and the rest from Germany. The public sales of the remainder of the last clip of Colonial commenced on Thursday, and with various foreign descriptions there have been about 44,300 bales declared. Some parcels, however, have been withdrawn. The attendance of buyers has been good, and the biddings have been tolerably spirited at about the currency established towards the close of the last series. In British wool there is little alteration; buyers have been awaiting the result of the present series of colonial sales, which have opened with more animation than was expected, and prices fully supported, and in some instances exceeded, November rates, which it is expected will give an impetus to the English wool trade.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Combing Skin	1	0	1	3
Flannel Wool	1	0	1	4
Blanket Wools	0	9	1	1
Leicester Fleeces (mixed lots)	1	2	1	3
Southdown Teggs	1	3	1	4
Ditto Ewes	1	3	1	3
Half-bred Ewes	1	2	1	3
Half-bred Hoggets	1	4	1	5
Kent Fleeces	1	3	1	3

At Liverpool there is more inquiry for English Clothing kinds at full prices, but combing wools are still dull. The stock of Scotch being light, holders are not disposed to give way in price, although there is little doing.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

At per load of 36 trusses.

Hay..£3 15s. 0d. to £5 5s. 0d.	Clover..£4 10s. 0d. to £6 0s. 0d.
Straw..£1 12s. 0d. to £2 2s. 0d.	

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Yours very faithfully,

Henry Tooke

Parsonage, St. James's, Hampstead-road.

Extract from a letter by the Rev. J. HARRIS, D.D., Author of "Mammoe."

The conception and arrangement of the work are admirable; and as far as I have had an opportunity of judging, the execution of it equals the plan. I have read various parts of it attentively; and while I have not met with anything which I could wish to have been omitted, most unfeignedly can I say that I have found much calculated to inspire and sustain devotion.

J. M. Harris

Epsom.

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J. R. Apple

Liverpool.

Letters have also been received from the following Clergymen:—Rev. W. B. COLLYER, D.D., Peckham; Rev. J. MORRISON, D.D., Chelsea; Rev. JAMES PARSONS, York; Rev. SAMUEL RANSOM, Hackney; Rev. A. THOMSON, Coldstream; &c. In addition to which, upwards of One Hundred of the most influential Clergymen of America have testified, by letter, their high commendation of the excellence and great utility of the above-named Work.

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Ditto	0 2½ to 0 3	0 3 to 0 3½	0 3½ to 0 4	0 4 to 0 4½	0 4½ to 0 5	0 5 to 0 5½
Ditto	0 2½ to 0 3	0 3 to 0 3½	0 3½ to 0 4	0 4 to 0 4½	0 4½ to 0 5	0 5 to 0 5½
Ditto	0 2½ to 0 3	0 3 to 0 3½	0 3½ to 0 4	0 4 to 0 4½	0 4½ to 0 5	0 5 to 0 5½
Ditto	0 2½ to 0 3	0 3 to 0 3½	0 3½ to 0 4	0 4 to 0 4½	0 4½ to 0 5	0 5 to 0 5½
Horse Hides	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0
Calf Skins, light	2 0 to 3 6	2 0 to 3 6	2 0 to 3 6	2 0 to 3 6	2 0 to 3 6	2 0 to 3 6
Ditto full	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0	6 6 to 0 0
Polled Sheep	8 0 to 9 6	8 0 to 9 6	8 0 to 9 6	8 0 to 9 6	8 0 to 9 6	8 0 to 9 6
Kents and Half-breds	7 0 to 8 6	7 0 to 8 6	7 0 to 8 6	7 0 to 8 6	7 0 to 8 6	7 0 to 8 6
Downs	5 3 to 6 3	5 3 to 6 3	5 3 to 6 3	5 3 to 6 3	5 3 to 6 3	5 3 to 6 3

COTTON, LIVERPOOL, February, 13.—The market closed with much demand, especially for Surat, at the extreme rates of last week. The sales amount to 9,000 bales, comprising 4,500 Americans, 500 for export, and 500 upon speculation; 550 Parnam and Maranham, 6d to 6½d; 200 Bahia, 6½ to 6¾d; 600 Egyptian, 6d to 11d; 3,000 Surats, 2½d to 4½d (2,000 upon speculation), and 60 Sea Islands, 12d to 20d per lb.

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